MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 FEBRUARY 1983

Libya, Egypt on U.S. Maneuvers

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that the United States has sent a unit of the 6th Fleet "in the direction of Libyan shores" and four AWACS aircraft to Egypt, Tripoli radio reported citing Al-Qadhdhafi's address to the General People's Congress session in Tripoli. He declared that Libya will not allow any foreign power to enter the Gulf of Sidra -- including the Soviet Union -- and asserted that Libya is forced to defend itself. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman earlier denied reports that the U.S. and Egyptian Air Forces are engaged in joint maneuvers but acknowledged that Egyptian pilots are being trained to operate electronic equipment installed on U.S. reconnaissance aircraft, according to MENA. The spokesman refused to comment on reports of U.S. fleet movements in the Mediterranean, MENA added.

Replying to reports regarding the presence of Libyan concentrations on the Sudanese border, Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, stated that Egypt's armed forces are ready to deter any threat to Egypt's security, MENA reported.

Egypt

Chadian President Hissein Habre will visit Cairo at the conclusion of his current visit to Sudan and will discuss the "serious situation" in Chad, MENA announced.

Palestine National Council Session

"We say no to the Reagan plan," declared George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in an address to the Palestine National Council (PNC) session in Algiers and reported by Algiers radio. Habash described the Reagan proposal, which "openly rejects" the establishment of a Palestinian state and recognition of the PLO, as a "political bomb," according to Algiers Voice of Palestine radio. He stated that the PLO must stop talking about a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation because this puts "the cart before the horse" and warned against establishing relations with Egypt before the Camp David issue has been settled, a Radio Monte Carlo report added. Habash called for deepening relations with Syria because the strength of the Palestinian revolution springs from the strength of Syria, the radio noted.

In another speech reported by Algiers radio, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, confirmed the need to adhere to the political program and Palestine National Charter approved by the PNC's 14th session. He stressed the need to reject the Reagan plan and "all forms of trusteeship."

It has been proposed that a high-level PLO delegation "should" visit Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian leaders on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question, MENA disclosed citing the Cairo paper AL-AKHBAR. The paper added that the proposal will be submitted to the PNC political committee.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad made a "secret" visit to Moscow on 17 February and held "very important" talks with Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

Lebanon

Subcommittee Talks -- During 17 February meetings in Netanya the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. subcommittees discussed security arrangements and the prevention of terrorist movements, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli delegation head David Kimche stated that Israel welcomes the Lebanese Army's deployment in Beirut and affirmed that the purpose of Israeli military patrols in Beirut's suburbs is to prevent Palestinian infiltration into West Beirut and not to confront the Lebanese Army, according to Jerusalem and Beirut radio reports. On the issue of the deployment of Major Haddad's forces in the south, Kimche said that this is part of "security measures" and "should not influence" the negotiations, Beirut radio noted. Jerusalem radio quoted Kimche as saying that the deployment of Haddad's forces is not intended to foil the negotiations or dictate security arrangements, although Israel believes that these forces "do have a role to play in this framework."

Communist Party Leader's Death -- The Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee announced the death of party leader Niqula ash-Shawi from a heart attack on 17 February, Beirut radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi forces killed 364 Iranians during a 16 February Iranian attack on an Iraqi brigade in the Ash-Shib area, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. Iranian forces killed 45 Iraqis during fighting on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

An official Iraqi spokesman condemned recent Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities and warned that if the shelling continues Iraq will reply "violently," Baghdad radio announced. In another development INA, citing the Paris magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, said that Syria has sent a Syrian Army division to Iran to support the Iranian "aggression" against Iraq.

Iraq

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan concluded his visit to Turkey and signed a joint statement on promoting bilateral relations and continuing contacts, Baghdad radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MATERIALS ON PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

17 Feb Morning Session

LD171626 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] resumed its meetings this morning at the Palais des Nations. For details, here is a report from our radio correspondent:

The PNC has begun its general deliberations and discussion of the politcial report. The speeches are imbued with true democracy. Members of the council and the commanders of the various Palestinian groups have been expressing their views.

The views put forward have been based on realistic analyses and the experience of struggle through the various stages of the Palestinian march. Some of the views reject all forms of pressure, which only impedes the natural progress of the Palestinian struggle, while others praise methods of political action, both declared and undeclared, as well as tactics to be used in dealing with various ideas put forward for finding a means to rescue the Palestinians from the injustice done them.

Some speakers cited peace plans adopted in the political arena in order to stress the inevitability of military action as a necessary option in bolstering the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and as an irreplaceable aspect of the settlement process.

Substantial attention is devoted to future plans for military action and the intensification of political activity to bring about Arab protection of the Palestinian resolutions and to build up world support for liberating the occupied land. Some warn against being swept away by partial peace solutions which relinquish the military option, which would lead to concessions being made against the inalienable right of an independent state. In this connection the idea of union with Jordan emerges. Some views consider this project premature in the absence of a Palestinian state. At this point the idea of the emergence of a Palestinian state is being put forward as a condition for any move in this direction. In this connection some members note that postponement of obtaining this right does not at all mean it has been abandoned, basing this on the principle that the correct priority would be first to achieve justice. Any retraction from the slogan of liberating the land would mean accepting a humiliating solution involving a real translation of a killing despondence [as heard] and an end rejected by the sacrifices of the masses. In this connection the conclusion is drawn concerning the inevitability of using political moves in support of military action, as only this can fulfill the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It is also the general view that any effective Palestinian strategy must be based on unity as the basic factor which gives the required dynamism to activity which should be concentrated at a very critical stage of the Palestinian struggle.

One of the speakers called for ending membership of the factions and declaring affiliation with the PLO, as such unity would give impetus to Palestinian decisionmaking and its effectiveness.

In the course of the debate pointers have emerged to a trend toward unity and a conviction that there will be accord on what is fundamental to the Palestinian question -- the fact that the Arab nation, headed by the Lebanese people, give a wonderful picture of Arab cohesion and sacrifice, as George Habash has noted.

Habash, Qaddumi Speeches

LD172346 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] The 16th session of the PNC resumed this morning at the Palais des Nations with an open session chaired by Brother Khalid al-Fahum. This fourth day was characterized by a general discussion of the political report preceding the directives which will be the basis of the work of the committees.

The session yesterday evening was devoted to the reading of the financial report and to speeches by the delegations of friendly and fraternal states. The delegations reaffirmed their total effective and militant solidarity with the Palestinian revolution in its struggle against the Zionist enemy for the recovery of its legitimate and firm rights and condemned the Sabra and Shatila massacres. They expressed admiration for the Palestinian people's determination to continue the struggle to achieve its noble objectives. They also expressed the belief that this session which is being held in Algeria, the symbol of courage and dignity, will come up with the necessary resolution for the consolidation of the final victory and the elimination of the Zionist enemy.

The session was suspended at 1415 to be resumed at 1800 today.

The general debate on the political report which began this morning in an open session was characterized by the speeches of three members, most important of which was the speech by Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who analyzed over 3 whole hours the political conditions created by the Lebanon war on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. Dr Habash confirmed that the Lebanon war placed the Palestinian revolution in a new political situation which is extremely critical and complex, adding that this situation must be explored and understood. The tasks which the Arab and Palestinian masses should perform must be defined. After he explained that the council is meeting at a critical moment in the life the Palestinian revolution, he spoke about the facts given prominance in the Lebanon war, foremost of the possibility of inflicting actual defeat on the Zionist entity.

Dr Habash analyzed the Israeli military theory which is based on the blitzkrieg, on technological superiority, and on psychological warfare, confirming that the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in Beirut led to the abortion of the theory and put the Israeli enemy in a real predicament. He said that Israel's objective in the war, which was different from previous ones, was the elimination of the Palestinian revolution and its infrastructure within a few days. It also aimed to destroy all who oppose the imperialist American-Zioinist plan in the region.

He said that despite 79 days of destruction and the siege of Beirut by three military divisions, in addition to naval and air forces, and despite the psychological war, Israel was unable to achieve its objective and the Palestinian resistance did not surrender. Rather, we stood fast at the Museum, at Damur, at [name indistinct], and at the airport. This proves the reality of the possibility of defeating the Israeli enemy if all Arab capabilities are mobilized.

After Dr Habash had spoken at length about the cohesion of the Lebanese National Forces with the Palestinian resistance in Beirut, he warned against the dangerous nature of the imperialist American-Zioinst plan, explaining the difficulty of the situation facing the Palestinian revolution as a result of the continuation of this plan which is aimed at eliminating it, at making Lebanon join Camp David, at fragmenting the Arab camp, and at dealing a blow to our relations with the socialist bloc, led by the friendly USSR. He confirmed that Reagan's plan is an embodiment of this plan which has been taking on universal dimensions following the victory of peoples over imperialist hegemony and colonialism. [as heard] Habash described Reagan's plan, which openly rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state and recognition of the PLO, as a political bomb no different from the cluster bombs which our fighters confronted bravely in Beirut.

At another level, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, confirmed in a statement to APS that all indications are that this 16th session of the PNC will be crowned with important resolutions meeting the requirements of the hour. He added that the resolutions will define moves in the following stage of the struggle and consolidate the collective will of the Palestinian people to continue the military struggle and political work to achieve the national rights. These rights include the right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Qaddumi explained that the important debate on the political report will enable important directives to be issued for the work of the committees set up by the session in order to define the future strategy of the PLO. The political report will be studied during the general debate and in the subcommittee.

Further on Habash Remarks

JN172000 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Algiers Nabil Darwish -- recorded]

[Excerpts] We are a member of the Arab League. We respect all members of the Arab League.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat uttered these words, not in a press statement or a speech in the PNC, but while Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, was speaking. While Dr Habash was delivering his speech to the council and after he said: "We cannot equate the PDRY to Oman," Abu 'Ammar immediately retorted: "We are a member of the Arab League and we respect all its members." Dr Habash then resumed his speech, which was the event of the day today at the Palestinian conference, which began discussing the political report.

Dr Habash's remark and 'Arafat's retort to it reflect the difference in viewpoints on the various political issues submitted to the council, including those whose general outlines have been approved and those which were rejected. While the 'Arafat line inclines toward an explanatory rejection of the Reagan plan, Dr Habash's rejection was categorical when he said: The Reagan plan says no to the Palestinian state and no to the PLO. We say no to the United States. Even the provision concerning the Israeli settlements in the Reagan plan, which some people consider positive, was attacked by Dr Habash when he said: Reagan does not call for the removal of existing settlements, so there can be no discussion on this subject. The discussion will be on the settlements which would be established. The U.S. objective is not to return the land, but to render the revolution null and void.

On the other hand, Dr Habash emphasized several times his praise for Soviet stands despite all that was said about the Soviet Union during the Beirut siege. Habash's categorical stand concerned not only the Reagan plan but several other topics as well. Habash called on the Palestinian leadership to adopt clear stands on these topics. The Fes plan must not be judged by its provisions but by its aims, its purpose, and some Arab rulers' interpretations, he said.

Habash also said: We must not go on talking about a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation despite the very special relations between the two peoples. He continued: Whoever talks about confederation places the cart before the horse. Dr Habash called for closing all doors leading to the Reagan plan.

Dr Habash said: The same can be said about Egypt. Although Egypt is the motherland, the Palestinian revolution will not join the Camp David process, because it is no easy matter. Habash warned against establishing relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Egyptian regime before the Camp David matter has been settled.

Regarding Syria, Dr Habash said: We do not want to turn into a passive political revolution. We must fight. I say in all frankness that we greatly need to strengthen and deepen our relations and cohesion with Syria. The strength of the Palestinian revolution springs from the strength of Syria.

Immediately after the speech, I asked Dr Habash: Although you have spoken on all topics, you did not say anything about the contacts with the Israeli peace camp. Dr Habash replied: I was extemporizing. Therefore, you must not reach any conclusions.

Nayif Hawatimah Address

LD180408 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The 16th session of the PNC resumed this evening at the Club des Pins of the Palais des Nations to hear members of the council.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, spoke at the session and confirmed the need to adhere to the political program and the Palestinian National Charter approved by the 14th session of the council. He confirmed the need to reject the Reagan plan and said: We, as fighting militants, reject all forms of trusteeship. There is no substitute for the PLO.

He added the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and their right to self-determination are sacred matters which cannot be encroached upon. He also rejected all attempts aimed at bringing the Egyptian regime back into the Arab ranks.

Moroccan's 15 Feb Speeches

LD171321 Rabat MAP in English 1212 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 17 (MAP) -- Mr Ahmed Ben Souda, adviser to King Hassan II, delivered on Tuesday, on behalf of the Moroccan sovereign, a speech before the Palestinian Nation Council, meeting here since last Monday.

After he expressed the feelings of consideration and solidarity of King Hassan II and of the Moroccan people toward the Palestinian revolution, Mr Ben Souda outlined the sovereign's commitment toward the Palestinian cause on the political, military, Arab, Islamic and international levels. He recalled that during the last meeting of the Al-Quds Committee held in Marrakech, King Hassan II had declared that "the Arabs had recognized, in Rabat in 1974, the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. If this decision compels us to be solidary with the PLO, on the other hand, it compels the PLO to be a responsible and clearsighted organization...We are sure that during the oncoming meeting of your National Council, you will plan for war as well as for peace".

Mr Ben Souda further stated that the Arab world is attending the birth of the future political strategy of the glorious Palestinian revolution aimed at establishing a Palestinian independent state with the holy city of Al-Quds as capital, on the basis of the lessons drawn from the heroic resistance of the Palestinian combatants during the battle of Beirut. "It is the beginning of the decline of the Zionist era," said Mr Ben Souda before recalling the sacrifices made by the Palestinian combatants during 35 years to confront the Zionist enemy and reaffirm the Arabity of the Palestinian revolution.

Mr Ben Souda then recalled the resolutions of the Fes summit and mainly the Arab peace plan stressing the need to respect these resolutions in order to put an end to inter-Arab differences and devote all efforts and potentialities to edifying the Arab force on the economic, social, cultural and scientific levels.

On his part, the speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba, who is also attending the sixteenth session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), underlined in a speech the importance of this meeting. "The holding of the current session of the PNC in Algeria, this brethren country which is linked to Morocco by history, common fate and struggle against colonialism, provides a particular importance to this meeting as it will be followed with great interest by about 160 millions of Arabs and by hundred millions of Moslems throughout the world", said Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba. This session, he went on, is held at a turning point of the modern Arab history, eight months after the cowardly Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian revolution will continue to exist with the support of peace and justice loving international forces, said the speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, who added that no one can hinder the march of the Arab Palestinian people toward the recovery of its rights in accordance with the options laid down by the Palestinian National Council.

Talking about the resolutions adopted by the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) which met recently in Rabat, Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba said that the APU reiterated that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and pointed out to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state on its soil with as a capital Al-Quds. The APU, he added, feels that the peace initiative of President Reagan does not keep pace with the national rights of the Palestinian people and that the decisions of the Arab summit of Fes are the basis for any Arab contacts. The APU, he said, insists on the sovereignty of the Palestinian decision and on the non-interference in internal affairs of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives finally wished full success to this session of the Palestinian National Council.

Delegation To Visit Egypt

LD172351 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- It has been decided that a high-level delegation from the PLO led by Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, the second man in the organization, should leave for Cairo to hold talks with the Egyptian leadership on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

Cairo AL-AKHBAR, in a news item datelined Algiers to be published tomorrow, Friday, reported this and said that the (?decision) will be submitted to the political committee of the PNC. The paper added that this decision has come in the course of the continuous meetings held between the Egyptian delegation attending the sixth session of the PNC and the leaderships of the resistance led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Doha: Speaker's Remarks 'Personal'

GF171108 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has for the first time defined the borders of the proposed Palestinian state. He said that it will be in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and its capital will be Jerusalem.

However, PNC sources said it is necessary to wait to find out whether this definition reflects the view of the majority of PNC members or whether it is Al-Fahum's personal view.

Khalil al-Wazir on Military Plan

JN171842 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Algiers -- The PNC resumes its proceedings today to discuss its subcommittee plans and recommendations. The council heard the political report submitted by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] head of the PLO Political Department, which touched on all Arab, Palestinian, and international political issues.

Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that all Palestinian resistance factions had agreed on a plan to place all Palestinian forces spread throughout seven Arab countries under one command. In a press statement published in Abu Dhabi today, he added that the resistance had adopted a new plan to escalate military action inside the occupied land to confront the terrorist practices against the Palestinian people there. Brother Abu Jihad noted the issue of Palestinian withdrawal from the Al-Biqa' by recalling that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had told a Lebanese envoy with whom he met in Tunis recently that the PLO would not be an obstacle in the face of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

CSSR Delegate's Meeting

LD171218 Prague CTK in English 1103 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Algiers -- The session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) clearly shows that imperialism and Zionism failed to humiliate the Palestinian people. This was stressed by Richard Nejezchleb, head of the Czechoslovak delegation to the 16th session of the council and deputy chairman of the House of the People of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly, at a meeting with Chairman of the Council Khalid al-Fahum and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat here Wednesday.

Yasir 'Arafat thanked the Czechoslovak people for their firm attitude, support and solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people. Both Khalid al-Fahum and Yasir -Arafat emphasized the high-principled and constructive stand of the socialist countries on key problems of the region included in the political declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member states at a session of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee in Prague.

'ARAFAT SAYS SYRIANS FAILED PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

JN171134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 17 Feb (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that independence, unity of action, and surmounting internal differences would give impetus to the Palestinian revolution to implement its militant and political program. In an interview with the Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which will appear in Monday's issue, 'Arafat said the Palestinian revolution will continue to carry out the armed and political struggles simultaneously because this revolution continues to hold the initiative. The PLO leader ruled out the idea that a Palestinian government-in-exile will be set up soon.

On the PLO's relations with Damascus, 'Arafat pointed out that it is those rulers who have failed the Palestinian revolution. As for the PLO's relations with Egypt, 'Arafat asserted that the two sides are in complete agreement, pointing out that Egypt's participation in the PNC's meeting in Algiers reflects the standard of the joint relations. He said that relations with Jordan are based on cooperation and not on authorization.

'Arafat warned that the PLO would take the necessary steps to set up its armed operations inside the occupied territories in retaliation for the continued Israeli violations of the cease-fire agreement to which the PLO has been adhering since 1981.

PDRY

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

GF171800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] At the conclusion of the fourth session of the permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation between the PDRY and the Soviet Union, the two sides signed the protocol documents of the session, which was held 11-17 February in Aden. The documents were signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning; and on the Soviet side by Comrade Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Affairs.

Following the signing of the documents in the Ministry of Planning, the brother minister of planning exchanged words with Comrade Mordvinov. Brother Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim pointed out that the protocol of the session includes the results of the activities of this session and an assessment of what was carried out last year. It also includes the results of the talks between the two sides to eliminate all difficulties that hinder the execution of certain projects. He said: The signing of these documents enables us to take new steps in the constant development of the economic and technical cooperation relations between the two countries. He noted that great developments will be witnessed this year in the relations between the two countries.

Comrade Mordvinov also affirmed that the activities of the fourth session will achieve important positive results and 1983 will be an important year for developing economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. He also urged efforts to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

YAR

PRESIDENT 'ALI 'ABDALLAH SALIH INTERVIEWED BY 'UKAZ

PM170823 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 6

[Interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Muhammad Mahjub in Jidda on 7 February]

[Excerpts] 'UKAZ: Your visit to the Kingdom is of special importance, particularly in view of the far-reaching developments which could shape the future of the region. How do you view Saudi-Yemeni coordination in dealing with these developments?

Salih: There is continuous coordination and consultation between us and the Kingdom, particularly since the policies of our two countries are in agreement on many issues, especially on the efforts to restore Arab solidarity and on the Arab nation's main cause, which is the cause of the Palestinian people.

'UKAZ: Saudi-Yemeni coordination has achieved many objectives within the framework of cooperation between the two sides. Are there any plans to develop the [coordination] council?

Salih: The Saudi-Yemeni coordination council has indeed made positive steps in all fields of cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

'UKAZ: North Yemen is anxious to maintain relations with all sides. What about relations with the Soviet Union in the post-Brezhnev era?

Salih: Our relations are good, and even excellent, with everyone. These relations are based on mutual respect and cooperation and we are always endeavoring to develop them, particularly because our principled policy is based on nonalignment and openness to everyone with the aim of serving mutual interests. Our relations with the Soviet Union and East Europe are good and based on clear foundations and fixed principles.

'UKAZ: What about relations with the United States? Have there been any developments in this connection?

Salih: Our relations with the United States and the West European states are good because we really pursue a clear and independent policy with all countries.

'UKAZ: What about Yemen-Gulf coordination on current developments?

Salih: There is continuous coordination and cooperation between our country and the GCC on all issues.

'UKAZ: Has there been any change in the YAR's policy on diversification of sources of arms?

Salih: There is no change in this policy. A long time ago we decided to diversify sources of arms and we have implemented this decision. In fact, several fraternal states have done the same thing.

'UKAZ: How do you view Israel's procrastinations aimed at delaying withdrawal from Lebanon?

Salih: We have always made our position clear regarding Israeli practices. We have emphasized that, in the absence of a strong and unified Arab stand, Israel will continue to stall and insult the Arab nation. Israel's attitude in Lebanon, which you have mentioned, is evidence of the Israeli enemy's intentions, and that attitude will continue unless the Arabs take a firm stand.

'UKAZ: Yasir 'Arafat has paid frequent visits to fraternal Yemen. Have any specific steps been taken to deal with fateful issues within the context of Palestinian-Yemeni coordination? What are the dimensions of 'Arafat's visits to Yemen?

Salih: Yes, there is coordination, especially because what concerns the Palestinian revolution concerns us in the YAR and concerns all the brothers. Brother Yasir 'Arafat's continuous visits should be viewed in this context.

'UKAZ: What progress has been made in the negotiations on unity with South Yemen?

Salih: Responsible and quiet steps are being taken toward unity between the two parts of Yemen. We begin with joint projects then we meet to discuss what has been achieved. An official meeting between myself and PDRY Chairman Brother 'Ali Nasir is scheduled for 7 March to discuss unity steps. We in North Yemen believe that unity between the people of the two parts of Yemen already exists. We fear that if we move too quickly in our steps toward full unity the result may be a setback as in some past experiments.

'UKAZ: What is your comment on His Majesty King Fahd's call for an Islamic common market, and to what extent would such a market serve the Arab and Islamic nations?

Salih: We welcome any joint Arab or Islamic effort. The call made by my brother His Majesty King Fahd for an Islamic common market is a good gesture because such a step would serve the Islamic nation, strengthen its economy, and check subservience.

'UKAZ: What is the magnitude of the human and material losses suffered as a result of the earthquake?

Salih: We have already announced that the losses were very grave. We must remember that the earthquake covered 4,000 square kilometers. The human losses were very big and the material losses have been put at $2 billion, but assessment is still in progress to determine all the losses.

'UKAZ: Will the development plans in Yemen be affected by the results of the earthquake, and to what extent?

Salih: Of course. Our second 5-year development plan will be affected because our efforts will mainly concentrate on rebuilding the areas affected by the earthquake and on making things easier for these areas. This is an urgent task and it means diverting a high percentage of the allocations for the development plan to this purpose.

'UKAZ: Will some of the projects already approved under the plan be canceled?

Salih: As I have said, our efforts will be mainly geared toward eliminating the consequences of the catastrophe and we will take every necessary step to rebuild the afflicted areas, but we hope that with the help of God and the cooperation of our brothers and friends we will be able to survive the crisis, rebuild these areas, and continue to implement the second 5-year plan.

FOREIGN MINISTER ATH-THAWR RETURNS 17 FEB

GF171324 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] 'Ali Lufti ath-Thawr, YAR foreign minister and member of the standing committee, returned to San'a' today following his tour of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, during which he delivered written messages from brother Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to the leaders of those countries on bilateral relations and on the earthquake which hit the country last December and the economic and social effects resulting from it.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the foreign minister said that he found total (?understanding) and positive response from the leaders of the fraternal countries.

ARMY CHIEF ON LIBYAN FORCES ON SUDANESE BORDER

NC171633 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- In reply to what has been reiterated about the presence of Libyan concentrations on the Sudanese borders, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz has stated that the Egyptian Armed Forces are ready to carry out their principal role of deterring any aggression threatening Egypt's security.

Asked what the position would be if an aggression is committed against Sudan, the chief of staff said: The decision in this regard will be made by the political leadership. The Armed Forces are prepared to carry out any tasks which will be assigned to them.

Answering a question on the WASHINGTON POST's report about new military exercises between Egypt and the United States, Hafiz said: This question should be referred to the source. Regarding the joint Egyptian-U.S. exercises, the chief of staff said no date has yet been fixed for carrying them out.

Lt Gen 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz attended today the celebration marking the graduation of a new group of reserve officers. In a speech on this occasion, he emphasized the role of the reserve officers college in providing the Armed Forces with new blood representing its human ammunition at a time when the Armed Forces' equipment and weapons are being modernized.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has approved the appointment of the graduates of this batch, whose success rate was 99.2 percent, to the rank of first lieutenant in the Armed Forces.

During the ceremony, the chief of staff distributed medals and prizes to the top graduates. The celebration was attended by naval forces commander Vice Admiral Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad; Major General Qadri 'Uthman, assistant defense minister and chief of the Armed Forces organization and administration department; Major General Mustapha Mahmud, chief of the Armed Forces training department, and a number of senior commanders.

HABRE TO VISIT CAIRO AFTER KHARTOUM VISIT

NC180705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Chadian President Hissein Habre will visit Cairo at the conclusion of his current visit to Sudan, and that contacts are underway to set a final date for the visit.

President Habre's visit to Cairo comes within the context of the contacts that he is holding concerning the present serious situation in Chad.

MUBARAK RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM LEBANESE PRESIDENT

NC171557 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1519 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received an oral message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil expressing Lebanon's pride in and appreciation of Egypt's Government and people.

Lebanese Economy, Trade, and Tourism Minister Ibrahim Halawi, who is currently visiting Cairo, conveyed the message to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali during their meeting today.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK INTERVIEWED BY QATARI PAPER

NC170902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has stated that the peace opportunities in the Middle East are first and foremost contingent upon the Arab nation, its ability to rise above differences, to discuss logically and realistically the available solutions, and to understand the reality of the situation without bargaining or reiterating slogans of a foreign country.

In a statement to Nasir Muhammad al-'Uthman, chief editor of the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH, Mubarak called on the Arabs to rise above marginal differences and to agree on common terms, because if the Arabs continue to focus on selfish interests, the Arab world will sooner or later end up with further differences and divisions as a result of not using the opportunities.

Asked about Menahem Begin's refusal to negotiate with or recognize the PLO and about the peace opportunities following Sharon's resignation, Mubarak said that changing Sharon's post is an internal issue. We, however, must take a look at ourselves and not criticize Begin while we are in disagreement, and we must realize that our differences give Begin the opportunity to gain more and procrastinate in solving the Palestinian question. The Arabs met in Fes and agreed on a peaceful solution. Now, however, one country has said no and that those who agreed on a peaceful solution in Fes are reactionary and backward countries. President Mubarak asked when we will be logical with ourselves.

On the Palestine National Council meetings in Algiers, President Mubarak said he hopes that the Palestinians will reach an agreement with King Husayn on the West Bank and its relationship with Jordan so that we can apply pressure on the United States and make use of Reagan's initiative to solve the Palestinian question and start the negotiations. We can retain the positive aspects in Reagan's initiative and, at the negotiations table, change the negative aspects in favor of the cause. However, if we reject the initiative, as we have done so much, we will eventually be the losers.

Explaining his stand on reassessment of the recognition idea, Mubarak said: The basis is mutual recognition, but Israel does not want to recognize [but] to delay the issue until a status quo is established and the settlements completed. This whole process is aimed at delaying the discussion of the issue so that they will complete building the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. He further said: Anyway, we do not want to say recognition by one party, but I maintain let them use this card at the appropriate time before it becomes without any value. Mubarak added: Our conception of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations is that it is up to them to agree on federal or confederal, or any, relations. What is important is that such an agreement helps the United States use its influence with Israel so that we can sit at the negotiations table and discuss what can be done.

Asked about the developments in the situation in Lebanon, Mubarak said: We are exerting utmost efforts to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli and all foreign forces from Lebanon so that Lebanon can exercise its sovereignty over its land. Unless these forces withdraw from Lebanon, the situation will absolutely not stabilize. He adds: If Israel keeps part of southern Lebanon under its control, this will be serious because it contravenes all general principles and it means acquisition of land by force. We reject this as we reject the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan or of any Arab land.

President Mubarak reasserted the need for Israel to completely withdraw from Lebanon as well as for the withdrawl of all foreign forces from Lebanon so that the Lebanese state can exercise its sovereignty over its territory. He said that what is taking place in the Lebanese arena -- in the mountain and in Tripoli -- harms the Lebanese position during the negotiations and helps the other forces to stay in Lebanon. Security remains unstable and Israel and Syria use this, because they want to stay in Lebanon under the pretext of Lebanon's security. This is serious. He said: If Israel or Syria is the party that is tampering with Lebanon's security, this is understood as serious because it delays withdrawal from Lebanon. It delays Lebanese sovereignty, and confirms the occupation of Lebanon by Israel or Syria.

President Mubarak reasserted Egypt's stand on the Iraq-Iran war. He said that its effects will involve not only the Gulf but also, sooner or later, the Palestinian question. Therefore, we denounce the war and call on both the Iraqi and Iranian sides to sit at the negotiations table and to use reason and logic. He added: Since the Iraqi president has announced his readiness to return to the international borders to end the war -- and I beleive there is no better way than this to solve the problem -- I appeal to the Iranian leadership to be logical and to seek a peaceful solution, because world experience has shown that wars absolutely cannot settle problems.

Speaking about the domestic situation and in answer to a question on reports that there will be drastic changes in domestic Egyptian policy in the forthcoming stage, Mubarak said: I will make the change when I find room for that. He pointed out that the change will be in the interest of the people and for the better. Citing an example, Mubarak said that any public servant who fails to implement specific plans or tasks assigned to him will be replaced. He said what is important is that stability must be established. He added: I can engage the people with changes every day, but the main problem now is development to solve the economic problem. I use my mind and logic and work for the interests of the people out of my own conviciton. He said he is not hostile to anyone on the soil of this country or abroad.

On the issue of democracy in Egypt, President Mubarak said: Democracy and press freedom these days are unprecedented from the eras of the monarchy through the revolutio. He said: Certain people are demanding freedom and democracy as in the United States, France, and Britain, but I say that when these countries reached this level of democracy, they already had good industrial and agricultural bases, all their people were educated, and did not have housing problems. He added: If I had these factors, I would have allowed freedom and complete democracy with controls and not fear anything. He affirmed: I do not fear for myself, but I fear for this people, who gave themselves and entrusted their affairs to a president to lead them to a better life.

Speaking about reports on exceptional laws, President Mubarak said that there is nothing called exceptional laws. He questioned what is shameful about the law safeguarding values from disgrace. Saying that the first to be tried under this law was 'Ismat as-Sadat, so why are others afraid? He affirmed that the sovereignty of law will continue and that any person who makes mistakes or exploits his influence will be brought to court according to the law without interference by me. What is required from me is not to cover up or help anyone who exploits his influence or makes mistakes against the people.

GHALI MEETS WITH LEBANESE MINISTER HALAWI

NC171703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed Egypt's interest in the reconstructio of Lebanon together with Egypt's support for unity and national reconciliation among all the Lebanese people.

During today's meeting with Lebanese Minister of Economy, Trade, and Tourism Ibrahim Halawi, Dr Ghali expressed Egypt's interest in an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and Egypt's support for Lebanon's independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty over every inch of Lebanese territory.

During the meeting, the Lebanese minister, who is currently visiting Cairo, discussed the Lebanese situation in general.

Dr Ghali and Halawi reviewed economic and cultural relations between Lebanon and Egypt during their meeting. Economic matters and topics pertaining to the commercial protocol signed in 1965, continuation of its implementation, and its procedures were discussed.

Druing the meeting, the Lebanese minister briefed Ghali on Lebanon's desire for exporting some of its agricultural products to Egypt, and commercial dealings between both countries and means to promote them were discussed as well.

In the cultural domain, they discussed matters relating to Lebanese students in Egypt, particularly post-graduate students.

ISRAEL FORCING LEBANON TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS

NC180920 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM cautions that Israel is continuing to use the full weight of its occupation in the negotiations with Lebanon. Israel has adopted the principle that if the normalization of relations cannot be brought about voluntarily, then it can be imposed by force. The paper notes that everything taking place in Lebanon is solely aimed at imposing Israel's will by twisting arms to the maximum.

Since Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and Shafiq al-Wazzan voiced their opposition to the Israeli demands, which would strip Lebanon of its sovereignty over its territory and people, a continuous and violent campaign has been launched to undermine the Lebanese authority with the most daring and impossible methods.

AL-AHRAM points out that the direct answer to the rejection of President Amin al-Jumayyil and Shafiq al-Wazzan has been keeping southern Lebanon in Haddad's hands, even after the seige and occupation, and then the announcement of annexing Sidon to Haddad's statelet. This measure deserves a long pause. It means that the Lebanese rejection of Israel's dictates will only lead to further swallowing of the land and, thus, cause Lebanon to shrink and be officially divided, leaving the Lebanese Government nothing as long as it persists in its adamant stand on sovereignty.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM expresses its conviction that this is the same plan being followed with the Palestinian leaderships and which will continue with further rejection parallel with further loss of the land until the question wanes as the land is gone.

COMMUNIQUE: 364 IRANIANS KILLED IN 16 FEB ATTACK

JN171730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Communique No 1003 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 17 February]

[Text] In order that Iraq shall remain dignified and strong and its territory proud and pure, our victorious armed forces continue their brave operations in the various operational sectors against the forces of the criminal Khomeyni regime. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Further to what was reported in our communique No 1002 issued last night, the enemy's known losses, which were sustained by its forces during their abortive offensive in the Ash-Shib region in the Maysan operational sector, reached 364 dead, large numbers of wounded, a number captured, and a quantity of weapons and various military hardware destroyed.

2. Five were killed east of Basra. One of the enemy sought refuge with one of our units in the same region and was removed to the rear in complete safety.

3. Four were killed in the central operational sector.

4. The artillery of the rancorous Khomeyni clique today shelled the cities of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. The enemy shelling caused damage to civilian establishments in these two cities.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 February 1983

SPOKESMAN WARNS IRAN TO STOP SHELLING

JN171940 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Iranian regime has violated the simplet moral commitment to any international norm or law. Its violation of international norms and laws has become unbearable in all fields, including attacks against Iraqi civilian targets, such cities and civilian inhabitants. Despite all this, we tried to avoid confronting these immoral acts with similar methods. The Tehran regime, however, has overstepped the limit by continued shelling of the Iraqi cities of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and Zurbatiya, particularly recently.

The escalation of the aggressive and barbaric shelling of Iraqi cities comes in reply to our commitment to refrain from shelling heavily populated Iranian cities, despite the presence of vital military targets in them. We say that continuation of these aggressive acts regrettably forces us to warn the Tehran rulers that repetition of such methods will make us reply violently. We apologize in advance to the Iranian people because we are committed to defending the security and interests of the Iraqis under all circumstances.

We call upon the Iranian people to exert the necessary pressure on their rulers to make them avoid shelling Iraqi cities. We hope the Tehran rulers will realize the consequences of committing further foolish acts and immoral behavior that will bring woe onto their peoples.

[Dated] 17 February 1983

INA: SYRIA MOVES SECOND DIVISION TO IRAN

JN180814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 18 Feb (INA) -- The Syrian regime has sent all batteries of Syrian Army's 2d Artillery Division to Iran to support the Iranian aggression against Iraq. The Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, in this week's issue, reports that this division belongs to the reserve force which operates behind the Syrian frontlines in the Golan Heights and in the western Al-Biqa' region.

The magazine adds that military experts in Paris were surprised at this Syrian step, which creates a breach in their defenses. The experts said the Syrian regime seems to be reassured that there will be no war or clashes with Israel.

RAMADAN RETURNS FROM TURKEY, MAKES STATEMENT

JN172200 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening at the end of an official 3-day visit to Turkey. In a statement to INA, he said: During the visit we met with Turkish President Kenan Evren and conveyed to him President Saddam Husayn's greetings. Ramadan affirmed the importance of broadening and developing cooperation in all fields to serve the peoples of the two friendly countries. He said he will convey the Turkish president's greetings to President Saddam Husayn. He also expressed satisfaction with the progress of bilateral relations and the two countries' desire and willingness to expand and develop these relations.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: We held bilateral talks with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu which touched on topics that will strengthen bilateral relations in all fields. We also reviewed the development of relations, particularly in the economic field [words indistinct]. The two sides affirmed their desire to bolster bilateral relations in both the short- and long-term stages. The strength of our relations gives me and our friendly peoples great confidence.

During the visit, joint minutes were signed on the extraordinary session of the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee and on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. The minutes included the necessary recommendations to expand trade exchange qualitatively within the framework of the objectives submitted in the joint minutes of the ordinary session held in Baghdad in December 1980.

The two sides also agreed on several practical steps which contribute toward cooperation in implementing projects in the industrial sector and making the necessary arrangements for a peaceful and scientific program of cooperation in the field of [word indistinct]. The minutes also included several recommendations which would contribute toward transport and [word indistinct] trade.

The two sides expressed concern at the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Iraq expressed willingness to cooperate with any party and effort that serves a peace which will guarantee the legitimate rights of the two sides. Iraq does this out of its love for peace and its endeavors to devote its energies to building and progress. At the same time, Iraq maintains a high standard of preparedness to defend its land and sovereignty.

Turkey expressed willingness to continue efforts aimed at ending the fighting and at reaching a peaceful settlement, individually and within the good offices committee. The two sides affirmed that continued Zionist aggression against Lebanon and its attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor confirms its aggressive, expansionist policy which hampers peace efforts in the Middle East. The first deputy prime minister invited the Turkish prime minister to visit Iraq.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON WAR, ARAB, FOREIGN RELATIONS

PM161103 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Feb 83 pp 26-30

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah by Huda al-Husayni conducted in three stages "at the frontline," "in Al-'Amarah," and "in his office at the Defense Ministry" -- dates not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: You were out of sight for a long time during which rumors spread abroad. One rumor was that you tried to stage a military coup and another was that you were wounded in the war. Where were you?

Khayrallah: Officials all over the world are subject to health hazards like everybody else. Sometimes they are unwell and sometimes they are perfectly healthy. I had a health ailment which continued for some time. On doctors' advice I spent about 2 months in the hospital. The ailment has been recurring since the seventies. What I had was something which all tank crews and paratroopers suffer from. Thank God, I am now quite healthy and performing my duties, as you can see.

As regards a coup, I ask: a coup against whom? Against myself? I am part of the regime. I am the shadow, brother, and righthand man of the president. I am not a man of government but rather one of the strugglers running the affairs of this country, subject to its command, a believer in its march and loyal to its president. This does not please our enemies. They have talked and published much. This is why I now ask them: Is that not enough?

AL-HAWADITH: In my first interview with you in March 1981, you said to me verbatim: We will not accept attrition. You also said that stagnation was cause for anxiety and that you did not have to accept it. However, you seem to have fallen into the trap of attrition and stagnation. You are now seeking more aid to finance the war effort, which is becoming heavier every day.

Khayrallah: Modern war is dazzling. Everyone involved in politics and armament knows the magnitude of military expenditure. When the war began we openly declared that, as I told you, "we were not the ones who started the war." We endured much of the Iranian side's activities and aggression inside our country and on our borders. We said so to the Iranians themselves and we sent memoranda to the United Nations and friendly states in the hope that Iran would hold back its evil. When we decided to defend ourselves by pushing enemy artillery and forces away from our towns, we announced, as early as the 3d day, that we were prepared to return to the international borders provided the international agreements with our neighbor Iran were respected and provided good-neighborly relations were established and aggression stopped. At one of his meetings the president said that we were prepared to continue as we were for a whole year without undermining the field requirements and without interrupting our development plans. Indeed, we fought and built our country at the same time, thus earning the admiration of both friend and foe. However, when the war goes on for a 2d and a 3d year, it becomes our right to reconsider. This is natural as far as economic development and as far as meeting the requirements of the war -- which could continue for 1 or 2 more years -- are concerned. It is known that the export of our natural resources through the Gulf has been at a standstill since the war began. The Syrian regime has also closed its borders with us and cut off the pipeline in accordance with its alliance with the Iranian regime. It is natural, therefore, that we should encounter some economic difficulties. It is natural to look for sources of funds or for alternatives to the export of oil, because it is illogical to subject our economy, national security, and future to the will of others.

AL-HAWADITH: But what about the war of attrition?

Khayrallah: I ask you: What are the options? Yes, we are now engaged in a war of attrition, but it is not so much a war of attrition in the real sense as it is an assignment by those who brought the Iranian regime to power aboard an Air Force plane from Paris, not from Mecca, the holy Ka'bah of Islam. I think there is a price for this, and this price is part of the political game in the Middle East. We believe that the Iranian regime and its allies have been assigned the task of keeping Iraq occupied so that the second phase of Camp David can be completed. They are betting on the downfall of the regime. They accuse us of selling territory and water, and when we recover them they jump into the trenches of the enemy and fight [Iraq] with expertise, arms, and men, use the media, and sign military contracts and contracts for equipment. So, as you see, it is not so much a question of attrition as it is a question of infighting on behalf of the nation's enemies.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the degree of interaction between the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Middle East question?

Khayrallah: Had Iraq not been engaged in this war and had it not been for the current attrition of the war, Iraq would have played a bigger and more effective and positive role in what is now going on in the Arab arena. So the aim is to keep Iraq occupied. All that is happening now stems from fear of a second Baghdad summit, because at the Baghdad summit conference we turned the tables on imperialism. We stopped the rot and turned the situation from one of defeat and division into one of real steadfastness, which was in the interest of one of the steadfastness states which is now fighting us fiercely.

I want to go back to the period before the 1973 war, specifically after Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's death, which created a big vacuum in the Arab world. While I greatly appreciate, respect, and take pride in the Egyptian people and Army, I must say that there is a difference between the Army and people on the one hand and the political decisionmaking on the other. A political decision made As-Sadat the hero of the crossing and a national leader, to fill the vacuum felt after 'Abd an-Nasir, but that was not done for As-Sadat's sake but for undeclared objectives, which were carried out in stages. In our opinion these objectives were:

1. Recognition of Israel, which began at Km 101 and culminated in the exchange of ambassadors and the hoisting of the Israeli flag in Egypt. Our position on this is clear and well known.

2. Reopening the gates to the United States -- gates which were closed in 1967.

3. Expulsion of the Soviets to safeguard U.S. interests in the Middle East.

4. Giving certain states in the region a bigger role to play.

5. Containing the revolutionary centers in the region, with us on top of the list of targets.

I will speak about the fifth item as an answer to your question about the extent of interaction between this war and the Middle East question. My answer is as follows:

Containment of the revolutionary centers in the region:

The new Iranian regime has the task of keeping Iraq busy and away from a possible second Baghdad summit conference. In other words, "sink the Bishack" (slogan raised by the Allies to sink the German destroyer carrying the name of the Prussian prime minister who united the German states). If they cannot bring down the Iraqi regime, then they must keep it from playing its part in foiling the plots to promote recognition of Israel within secure borders and acceptance of a fait accompli.

AL-HAWADITH: Allow me to interrupt you. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has himself expressed support for a Palestinian state and for secure borders for Israel. Tariq 'Aziz, the present foreign minister, has said that he is not against direct negotiations between the PLO and Israel. Negotiations are a form of recognition. Furthermore, Iraq approved the Fes summit resolutions, which imply recognition of Israel.

Khayrallah: I will continue with my answer to your first question and then I will answer your new question.

In this war, or rather before this war, we were among those who were overjoyed by Khomeyni's assumption of power after the shah's downfall, despite the fact that before the shah's downfall Iraqi-Iranian disputes were settled in accordance with what was called the 1975 Algiers treaty, which was later rejected by the new regime. We were optimistic for several reasons, the simplest being our known relations with the shah. What was our position and what was his? We fought a war against him for 2 or 3 years in the northern region. That included clashes all along the border. We paid in blood. We were also happy because Khomeyni was a guest of the Iraqi people for more than 13 years. I recall that during the 1974 events all the media were at the disposal of the Iranian opposition and Khomeyni had the lion's share, whether on radio or television or where material and moral support was concerned. We hoped that, out of gratitude, those people, who had been rejected by their country, would establish good relations with all neighboring countries without exception.

If revenge comes into it, we would have thought that Iraq would be the last country on whom they would declare war, but the opposite happened. When we look at the declared and undeclared motives, or wonder why us in particular, we find no answer except that the new regime brought by Air France from Paris had a price, and we believe that events have proven that that price was Iraq, not anything internal.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean Iraq as a country or as a regime?

Khayrallah: Both. The shah once said that "Iraq" is a modern name. There is similar clear statement by Khomeyni to this effect. The answer to this question is actually twofold: religious and political. According to the Ja'fari faith, the authority should be in An-Najaf. It is something like a political and military command. So whoever has command in An-Najaf has the power to plan, in accordance with our lord Imam 'Ali, may God bless his soul, with authority located where Imam 'Ali is buried so that religious and political power may be centered there. When that location is not in Khomeyni's hands, his role becomes secondary. This is why he wants be in Karbala' and An-Najaf. They may prefer Karbala' to An-Najaf in order not to remember what they did to Imam 'Ali because Imam 'Ali was killed in Karbala' by a Persian.

As regards the political aspect and the course of this regime, all the enemies of this regime at home and abroad know very well what it means and where it is going. On the basis of accurate, unerring calculations, they know the foundations on which this regime is built and the revolutionary and popular roots of this regime. This is why they must "sink the Bismarck."

I believe that planning this task and persisting in hostility toward Iraq only increase the estrangement and the argument and preclude any future cooperation or coordination in the service of the Palestinian cause. What does the closure of the Syrian border mean and what do the sealing off of the pipeline and the alliance with Iran mean? This is a precedent in Arab history.

We now conclude that Iran is supposed to keep Iraq occupied and to keep it from turning its attention to the central issue, and to involve other Arab regimes in the game to blow up all bridges and prevent retreat or reunion with Iraq. When they raise with the Iranian regime the motto of bringing down this regime, it becomes a primary requirement that this lump which they cannot swallow and which is obstructing their moves toward a settlement must be removed. However, since it has not been possible to topple the regime in the past 2 and 1/2 years, it has become necessary to exhaust its economy.

AL-HAWADITH: Everyone is aware of Libya's and Syria's relations with Moscow. Could Moscow be behind these moves?

Khayrallah: The Soviet Union is a big power and it has international commitments. We have a friendship treaty with it, although our relations have been somewhat cool. Moscow probably has its own calculations for the region. This is a certainty, but I cannot accuse or acquit it. Eastern-made T-62 tanks have appeared in Iran's possession. These tanks are not manufactured outside the socialist camp. This is a known fact. I doubt that the Soviet Union itself supplied Iran directly with these tanks, but I believe that it is very likely they came from either Libya or Syria. From our experience with the Soviet Union we can say that contracts include a stipulation that no third party should have them without prior consultation with the first party.

There are two possibilities if our conclusion that they were supplied by Syria or Libya is true: It was done either with or without the knowledge of the Soviet Union. I cannot answer this question now; the future might reveal facts to confirm or negate it.

AL-HAWADITH: There have been reports that the United States will, after settling the Lebanese questions, turn to Iran on the grounds that the Yalta line still stands.

Khayrallah: According to my information, Iran's security is linked to three treaties: the Yalta treaty, the Potsdam treaty, and the Tehran treaty. I personally have not seen any undeclared provisions, if there are any, but what has been published and announced indicates there is an agreement among the three big powers on a certain commitment regarding Iran.

Political situations change; they do not remain static. Events of the late 20th century might produce factors different from those brought on by events of the beginning and middle of the century, subject to political balances.

AL-HAWADITH: We notice that in the Iraqi-Iranian war many ideological and political cards and interests got mixed up. For example, Iran calls for a holy war against Israel and the West, but its Revolution Guards receive arms from Israel and the West. On the other hand, we see that Iraq, the progressive regime with strong relations with Moscow and no relations with the United States, is being supported by the ideological enemies of the Soviet Union. How do you explain this?

Khayrallah: I could answer many such questions now, but to do so with our usual frankness and honesty with ourselves and our friends might be detrimental to several parties. I believe that it is too early to give clear answers, but we can talk about the obvious contradiction between what Iran says and what it does. If we look at the attitudes of the allies and others who support one side or the other, we will see the following: Iran tells the mediation delegations that it is ready to go to the negotiating table if Iraq withdraws to the international borders. This happens after the Iraqi leadership's political decision [to withdraw] based on the leadership's assessment, the advice of our friends, and our declaration that we had no intention of committing aggresssion or holding on to territory. We stayed there for 2 years and we could have stayed in Iranian territory 4, but to show show world public opinion and friends that we mean what we say, we withdrew.

Iran asked to fight on Syrian territory or in defense of the Lebanese people and called on Iraq to allow its Army to pass through, at a time when we were at war with Iran. We said: Welcome, the experts will be waiting at the borders. But the massacre continued in Beirut. Then they said: We want to pass through Karbala' to liberate Jerusalem. That was after they had been on the border for 8 months and after having lost no less than 200,000 dead in three battles, by their own admission. Rafsanjani himself admitted that they had lost 70,000 dead in the battle east of Basra. Reports published in the big states abroad put the figure somewhere 110,000 and 120,000. We have it from semireliable sources that in the latest battle they lost 480,000 dead east of Maysan and double that number in Mandali. All they achieved was to establish a presence on 3 km of Iraqi territory. East of Basra they have a presence on 2 km in a limited area.

If Iran's ideology says that Iran should fight alongside the Arabs for the liberation of Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places, then, bearing in mind that Iraq lies on Iran's borders, our case should be postponed on the basis of Iran's ideological priorities. If this is Iran's position, why does it not go to Syria through the same air corridor which Syria established with Iran? Furthermore, if they really want to pass through, we have said repeatedly that they are welcome to pass through to Syria to fight the Israelis, if they are sincere.

From my position and for the first time I calmly say: I challenge the sincerity of the Iranian regime's intentions. If they are really sincere, then there are Syria, Lebanon, and the Israeli enemy. Our position on the Palestinian question is known. So, on ideological grounds, let them first go and liberate Jerusalem.

To them we are infidels and not Muslims. So this is a score to be settled later because we are there on the borders, and when the Iranian leadership decides to liquidate and destroy us, then we can fight and see who lasts longer on the battlefield.

AL-HAWADITH: According to some reports, you signed a contract with China in November to purchase arms. What has become of this contract and have you started receiving the arms?

Khayrallah: Our relations with China are good, but we have not signed a contract to purchase arms from it.

AL-HAWADITH: What new positive developments are there in your relations with the Soviet Union? Will Moscow really intervene to stop the war and will the Soviets give you technologically advanced missiles and other sophisticated weapons?

Khayrallah: It is a known fact that the Soviet Union is our main source of arms and that we have friendly relations with it. However, as a superpower the Soviet Union has certain commitments to the socialist camp, the Third World, and even the Western world.

The Soviet Union has declared neutrality in the war. When the war broke out we had contracts already concluded with it and we were receiving arms, but that stopped so that the implementation of the contracts would not be interpreted as a negative Soviet attitude toward Iran, especially since the Soviet Union believed that the downfall of the shah was a major step and regarded the new regime as new blood and believed that the regime might be progressive, and that it was a matter of time.

As regards new weapons, we have actually signed nothing new. Whether they give us [arms] or not, we do not know the Soviet leadership's calculations regarding the war.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words it is not certain that Moscow intends to intervene to stop the war?

Khayrallah: I believe the Soviet Union is interested in keeping its common borders quiet and stable and in not letting these matters interfere too much with its other domestic and foreign affairs. That is why I believe that an end to the war is in the interest of the Soviet Union. Moscow may be interested in seeing the war come to an end, but the question of an effective contribution depends on the means of influencing both sides. If these means were available the war would have stopped.

AL-HAWADITH: According to some reports, your contracts with France cover purchases of advanced weapons as well as recruitment of experts and technicians.

Khayrallah: In contracts with both East and West, one of two things happens when a new weapon is involved: either our people go to the country of origin to be trained and educated in the use of the arms, or the second party to the contract sends with the arms some experts for training purposes. Sometimes both cases apply at the same time.

If experts means experts in the use of arms, then the answer is yes, but if the reference is to experts who advise on the conduct of the war and affairs, then the answer is an emphatic no to France and everyone else, and that includes friends, Arabs and non-Arabs. The conduct of the war is an Iraqi national affair.

As regards technical experts on arms, their service is natural and this applies not only to Iraq but to everyone else, and it depends on the contract requirements or the type of weapons. We either send our people or they send their experts to explain things.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that you have received Exocet missiles from France?

Khayrallah: We purchased these missiles in the past. We have some and the rest are to be delivered in accordance with already signed contracts.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you not afraid of purchasing fake weapons, in other words, weapons similar in appearance but that are actually manufactured in countries other than the original producing countries?

Khayrallah: The black market is full of surprises. We are careful in our dealings with it. I do not believe that the kind of equipment you mentioned appears on the black market. Some ammunition, light and medium weapons, and perhaps artillery parts may be put up for sale, but the room for surprise in that field is limited. Complex weapons cannot be manufactured, exported, or sold on the black market; otherwise, Argentina would have been the first to get them when one single missile meant so much in its war with Britian.

AL-HAWADITH: Why don't you manufacture arms like Egypt, India, and Israel?

Khayrallah: In terms of the lifespan of governments, our government has been in power only a short time, but we believe we have taken some serious steps in that direction in accordance with national requirements.

AL-HAWADITH: I have heard you have begun manufacturing certain types of guns and machineguns and that you now have factories.

Khayrallah: Our ambition is to establish our military industry on the basis of the war experiment that was our motive behind taking such a step. However, I do not wish to go into detail. But like every independent country with a will of its own, we believe that a military industry is one of the components of independence.

AL-HAWADITH: Does it mean that you have already begun such manufacture?

Khayrallah: I can say yes.

AL-HAWADITH: Both light and heavy weapons?

Khayrallah: Usually progress is gradual in this case.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you use them in the war?

Khayrallah: Yes, we did use some of them.

AL-HAWADITH: Were the results good and effective?

Khayrallah: We must ask the Iranians about that.

AL-HAWADITH: You no longer talk about rebuilding the nuclear reactor. Did you give up this ambition?

Khayrallah: World Zionism and unfriendly states have played a major negative role and caused a great misunderstanding of our intentions in this regard. The reactor is subject to control and inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which frequently comes to our reactor. We have not changed our beliefs, but in view of the fact that the war is going on for the 3d year we must look at things in their right perspective and priorities and, consequently, devote our resources to the priorities.

AL-HAWADITH: Does this mean that you have now stopped thinking about it?

Khayrallah: We did not stop, but it can be said that we invest in the priorities. Perhaps there are things that have priority over the reactor, but this does not mean abolishing or abandoning it, considering that the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes has already begun in many countries. This is in view of the fact that it is economical and brings a good return which serves national objectives. Why should we stop? As long as we are an IAEA member we possess nothing that could be surprising. Why should we reconsider the project? No, we shall continue with it in the normal manner but, as I have already told you, it is our circumstances that will determine how and when.

AL-HAWADITH: In the middle of August President Saddam Husayn, in one of his speeches, talked about a new weapon which the Iraqi Army possesses "that will tip the balance in your favor." Is it true that this weapon is a poisonous gas and that for this reason Britain supplied Iran with thousands of masks for the Iranian Army and the Iranian guards?

Khayrallah: With all modesty I would like to say that we have been able to repel the Iranian aggression against us from the beginning. This aggression began with interference in our internal affairs, then the incident in Al-Mustnasiriyah, the attempt on the life of two members of the Revolution Command Council, the shelling of the border towns, and many other incidents reported in the media. After constant attempts to clarify things, and when they failed to heed, we were forced to push back the Iranian units to a distance that would ensure security for our towns. We remained on Iranian territory 2 years and we returned to our borders last June in accordance with a political decision.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that after the seige of Abadan was broken you lost 90,000 men and heavy and light weapons and ammunition enough to equip two Iranian divisions?

Khyarallah: If this were the case and [the losses] were at such a level, we would not have been able to stand against the tanks they used against us. In east Basrah we faced tanks and captured them and gave their numbers to our Soviet friends. They were T-62 tanks. We hinted that they could have come from Syria or Libya. It is not our habit during the war to leave serviceable arms behind us. If they are serviceable why should we leave them to the enemy? We would withdraw them. But if they are destroyed, then this is another thing. This is war; it is either kill or be killed. Tanks and vehicles are destroyed and people get killed. Both Eastern and Western weapons have been lost. War also means losses of life. But the figure you mention is given by the Iranians and not us.

I can assure you that the figure of 90,000 is exaggerated; it is much more than doubled. The day will come when the truth about our figures and the Iranians' will emerge. Thank God, our losses have not reached this figure and they are far from it.

AL-HAWADITH: The London SUNDAY TIMES on 16 January 1983 said that an Iraqi military delegation was discussing in Egypt the question of dispatching four Egyptian Army divisions. These divisions would not participate directly in the war but would replace Iraqi forces on the northern border with Syria. How true is this report and what was your delegation doing in Egypt?

Khayrallah: We are not among those who would like to see Arabs fighting one another. If we were people of this type, we would have in the first place recovered our rights from Syria with a military operation. We leave this matter to be judged by the honest people in the Arab nation -- to see who is right and who is wrong. It would be a precedent to kill an Arab with an Arab weapon.

We are not a scapegoat. Nobody should imagine that we are easy prey. Also I believe that neither we nor the Egyptian regime is considering such action. There are no concentrations facing one another on our borders with Syria requiring that we bring in Egyptian units, particularly since such action would have many repercussions. Moreover, we are against the principle of inter-Arab fighting. I assure you that our regular forces are in good shape. Some of our Egyptian brothers may come as volunteers, and so may part of the Sudanese regular forces. I am proud of and appreciate Sudan's attitude; its participation is a conscientious gesture and a historical precedent set for the Arabs. Otherwise, we have hundreds of units now; we do not need it. But we will not hesitate a moment to ask from all the good Arabs if we feel the need; because this is an Arab battle and we are fighting on the Arabs' behalf. We are not ashamed to ask our Arab brothers, but our position is solid and good. But Arab participation so far is symbolic, expressing the Arab nation's common destiny. As I have already said, we are fighting on behalf of the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

With regard to the presence of the Iraqi military delegation in Egypt, the Egyptian brothers have Eastern weapons and they manufacture supplies for them. Because of the war and the delay by our Soviet friends in fulfilling their obligations, we have bought and are buying supplies from Egypt. We have made this public and there is no secret about it.

AL-HAWADITH: It is being said that the Soviet Union is encouraging the revival of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and Iran's inclusion in it. After your relations with Moscow have improved, will you consider joining this front?

Khayrallah: To be included in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is a healthy thing and nationally desirable. But we should ask ourselves whether we want this front for purposes of internal consumption or whether we want it a front full of vitality and usefulness.

If the latter is the case, I would like to say that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states asked us to join the front and we said that we were ready. But, we told them, we must establish this front on the basis of principles that were declared at the time. These are:

1. Revival of the eastern front consisting of Iraq, Syria, and Jordan so that this place will assume its actual and realistic role.

2. Syria should reject Resolution 242 if it wants to prove it is serious.

3. The Palestinian resistance should be enabled to operate through Syria and Jordan.

But Syria failed to reply and Libya recently discovered that it is geographically distant from Lebanon and Syria.

If such is the form of the front, why should we join? The front exists without Iraq, but what has it done?

Now I would say that if the front is serious in its confrontation our demands are still the same and if the requisites of these demands are met, then we will quickly respond and will become members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

AL-HAWADITH: But the situation has now changed, particularly with regard to Lebanon. With regard to opening the borders, for example, the Israelis have replaced the Palestinians in southern Lebanon and the whole situation in Lebanon has changed.

Khayrallah: It is true. Life is constantly changing; certain things appear and other things disappear. Conditions must be adapted to circumstances; we should not be captives of circumstances.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you now in favor of King Husayn's entering negotiations alone if the PLO refuses to adopt a common stand with Jordan, particularly since some people say that King Husayn's disinclination to negotiate alone would be more dangerous than negotiating without the PLO?

Khayrallah: It is not King Husayn who is rejecting the PLO but rather the United States and Israel that are refusing to negotiate with it.

AL-HAWADITH: What if a joint stand is adopted and King Husayn negotiates on their behalf?

Khayrallah: The king will negotiate in accordance with an Arab consensus adopted at Fes conference, where King Hasan II was authorized to head two delegations and tour the world with them. His move would be within this context. So what is new in this subject?

AL-HAWADITH: To negotiate a confederal state in accordance with Reagan's plan?

Khayrallah: So far King Husayn is still in the stage of consultations. The question of a federal or an independent state or any other form of state has not yet been brought up. So far it is still a process of putting out feelers. Reagan's plan does not mention a Palestinian state; negotiations now deal with general lines. If they agree on details of these lines, then the question of the Palestine problem, Jordan's involvement, and other issues will be dealt with.

AL-HAWADITH: But it is said that King Husayn is being asked to negotiate with Israel directly. Would you authorize him to do so?

Khayrallah: We are in favor of the Arab consensus reached at the Fes summit. Does this mean that King Husayn must once again seek the opinion of the Arab leaders? Also, the words of the president are very clear. If this is the desire of the Palestinian brothers and is in line with the general guidelines adopted at the Fes summit, why should we be the discordant voice in the Arab world? Even if we refuse, what can we do if the Palestinians agree and the whole Arab world agrees? Now they are required to say yes to the negotiations before March. Specifying the date on the part of the United States is some kind of pressure.

AL-HAWADITH: What will your attitude toward Lebanon be if it establishes normal relations with Israel? What would you like to do for Lebanon so that it will not find itself in a position in which it is forced to accept Israeli terms?

Khayrallah: Lebanon has been destroyed by war and has paid a disproportinate price in the blood of its sons. Our declared stand is that we are for Lebanon's integrity and sovereignty and favor Lebanese reconciliation. We as an affluent country must, together with the affluent Arabs, contribute within our means to the restoration of Lebanon to its normal conditions, to rebuild it and to revive it.

The Israelis alleged that the Palestinians' activities in southern Lebanon threaten the Israeli settlements. Now the position of the resistance is known. Thus the new claims by Israel constitute blackmail. We are opposed to any Israeli blackmail of Lebanon, but actually we are not in a geographical position to help Lebanon. We deal with Lebanon through Syria; we have no other outlet to Lebanon. In other words, Lebanon is a captive of Syria, considering the relations between them.

We are in favor of all aid that can be given to Lebanon so that it will not submit to Israeli blackmail. Our activities in the international arena are based on this principle. What does Lebanon have so that they should set up warning stations there? It does not have an army like the Egyptian, Iraqi, or Syrian Army. It is a small country with enough forces for its internal security. These are impossible demands and blackmail. The idea is probably to bring pressure to bear on the Syrian units in Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: It was said that, in accordance with the summit resolution on reconciliation, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad suggested to President Saddam Husayn that they meet in a European country, but the Iraqi president refused, preferring the meeting to be held in Saudi Arabia. How true is this?

Khayrallah: Among the recommendations of the Fes summit was one concerning clearing the Arab skies, including Iraqi-Syrian relations. It was publicly said that King Fahd had been entrusted with clearing the atmosphere between the two countries. I believe that the Syrian side requested that meetings at less than the presidential level in order to discuss these matters. Iraq's reply was that since it was unanimously decided at the summit that Saudi Arabia or another country would be entrusted with this task, then at the beginning let representatives of the heads of state meet to discuss the matter as a prelude. We are in favor of restoring normal relations with Syria; in other words, we are not against it. But we expected Syria to refuse because it has its own calculations. This was what happened when the Iranian-Libyan-Syrian alliance was declared. It appears that Syria lays much store by Iran, particularly following "the great victories which the Iranian regime has achieved," which encouraged Syria to pin hopes on the anticipated [military] operation. If this is what they believe, we hope they will reconsider their views because the result will be different.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Iraq still willing to accept a new Arab mediation with Syria?

Khayrallah: It is natural that our relations should be normal, that is, no party should interfere in the affairs of another or in transit traffic interests. They want to gain time with regard to the question of the meeting of the [joint] political command, the removal of the party [Ba'th Party Pan-Arab Command in Iraq], and other issues. We experienced a similar thing in 1979. This might be an ambitious stage; that is, it is a target for the future. As for the present, it is beneficial to us and to Syria that relations between us be normal.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words, you are closing the doors.

Khayrallah: No. At the Fes summit they asked that we not interfere in their internal affairs and so we have to ask them to do the same, that is, not to interfere in our internal affairs. They have shut the oil pipeline, which is an economic resource of the Iraqi people. They said oil revenue should not go into Saddam Husayn's pockets. They know well that Saddam Husayn owns nothing. They have also closed the border.

These are the three points. They also sided with Iran. We asked them to submit a working paper containing their views on how to stop all these campaigns, as they were requested by the Fes summit resolution which also charged Saudi Arabia with this task. We have always reiterated our welcome for the resumption of normal relations. But then we were surprised by the statement of the new [Syrian-Libyan-Iranian] alliance. It appears that they pin great hopes on Iran.

AL-HAWADITH: It can be gathered from President Saddam Husayn's speech at the ceremony to present bravery awards to Kurdish soldiers that the security situation in the north is not quite stable. There have also been many rumors about coup attempts or the president's being the target of assassination attempts. Is this smoke without fire?

Khayrallah: With regard to the situation in the north, we always indicate that there is a disturbing problem there. Concern for the integrity of the soil is legitimate. We have not said that there are no problems in the northern area. Foreign interference in the Kurdish problem has become deep in the past 20 years. It is not unexpected that they should find among the 3 million of our Kurdish people some individuals ready to sell out their country. Therefore, we have never said that security in the north has been established once and for all.

With regard to the question of the president's being the target of assassination attempts, by God I have heard this rumor for the 50th time since this regime came into office. What is even more ridiculous is that the president's 6-year-old daughter, Hala, has been reported dead several times. They said she was hit when she was with her father. Hala is the president's youngest child and his favorite. She is 6 years old and has to go to school, and so she will no longer accompany her father. It appears that the question of Hala also worried them and so they began rumors. As far as the president and Hala are concerned, these are only rumors.

AL-HAWADITH: Before the war and during it you used to reiterate that Arabistan is Arab. Now, after withdrawal from there, is Arabistan still Arab or has it become Khuzestan? What about the Shatt al-'Arab?

Khayrallah: As you are probably aware, a week ago I held a press conference and you were there. I was asked about this subject. Is Arabistan Arab? Yes, it is Arab and it will remain Arab, both its territory and people. Who said that we have said directly or indirectly, before the war or during it, that we desire to establish an Arab province there and raise the Iraqi flag over it?

We have demanded, just as the Kurds in the north enjoy the full rights of Iraqi citizenship and have their own language schools and autonomous administration, that the people of Arabistan preserve their Arab character within the unity of Iranian soil. Now after our withdrawal from there and even after 50 years, Arabistan will remain Arab and we ask that its characteristics be preserved within an integral Iran.

Had the Arabs in this battle supported Iraq's stand, Arabistan would have become Arab and an Arab flag and not an Iranian one would have been flying over it.

With regard to the Shatt al-'Arab, its course has not changed; it is still the same. Our dispute is that we have been asking about our borders within the three agreements rejected by the Iranian side. [as published] The shah rejected the 1937 treaty, and the 1975 treaty was rejected by the present Iranian regime, which calls it the Saddam-shah treaty. We asked them officially if they had abrogated this treaty, but they replied with abuse. We are for a Shatt al-'Arab which is Arab but in which traffic is organized in accordance with an agreement between us, as used to be the case. We have never said that the Shatt al-'Arab is not Arab.

AL-HAWADITH: Since all the Arab countries have relations with the United States and since, as you said, Iraq's attitude toward the Palestine problem is the same as desired by the Palestinians and the Arab countries, and since you have accepted the Fes summit resolutions, why do you not resume relations with the United States so long as the reason for the break is no longer there?

Khayrallah: The U.S. stand is clear. We have a popular saying: "If you desire a deer take a rabbit and if you desire a rabbit take a rabbit." In other words, there is only a rabbit to be obtained.

There is clear coordination between the U.S. side and the Israeli side. Reagan said: You have up to 4 March to make up your mind; if you want our proposals, you are welcome; if you don't, it is up to you. What choice is there for the Arabs? Has the reason for breaking relations been removed so they can be restored?

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a final word you would like to say?

Khayrallah: There remain wishes. We sincerely call on the people concerned in Iran to focus on their country's interest. The war is 2 and 1/2 years old. Even if it goes on they can achieve nothing. Their patriotism is in the balance. If they want their land, it is theirs. They say they want compensation. We say that the aggressor should pay compensation. Let a committee acceptable to them be set up and we will do as it says. If we are to blame, we will pay without arguing. But we refuse terms dictated to us. We are not the type to whom terms can be dictated, even if the war lasts 20 years.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you capable of lasting 20 years?

Khayrallah: We will continue 40 years.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words it is another Dahis and Al-Ghabra' war [legendary 40-year war because of a dispute over two racehorses]?

Khayrallah: Yes, by God. It is a Dahis and Al-Ghabra' war, or a hot Iraq-Iran war.

REPORTAGE ON NEGOTIATIONS AT NETANYA 17-18 FEB

Israelis Welcome Deployment

NC171120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at Dan Hotel in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English]

[Text] The official delegation of the Ministry of Information on its third message from Dan Netanya. Dr Dawud Sayigh, the official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, came up before the press to announce the following: At the beginning of the plenary session the Israeli side welcomed the latest Lebanese moves to broaden the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the eastern sector of the capital, Beirut, and later on hoped that the Army would be spread over Lebanon's territory. The Israeli side went on discussing and labeling the latest declarations by Lebanon's Foreign Minister Dr Salim as encouraging and optimistic.

The Israeli side, on the other hand, explained that the latest moves by the Israeli army will not be aimed against the legitimate authorities but against an alleged Palestinian infiltration in Beirut, and this problem is expected to be discussed during meetings of the subcommittee dealing with the security arrangements.

Also, the Sa'd Haddad problem was examined. The Israelis answered that Sa'd Haddad's moves will not influence the negotiations process but that problem would be resolved within the framework of the subcommittee dealing with the security arrangements. The head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal reiterated that two points over which Lebanon will never compromise: One -- maintaing control stations by the Israeli army, and two -- the presence of the UNIFIL and the multinational forces in Lebanon for the present time. Dr Fattal ended saying that there are other moves than those proposed by the Israelis to maintain the security in southern Lebanon. Following this, the plenary session (?adjourned) to meet in subcommittees. This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information which was with you reporting from Dan Netanya.

Subcommittees Discuss Withdrawals

NC171800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Netanya, Israel]

[Text] The subcommittees' seond meeting ended at 1630 today. During the meeting, the subcommittees continued their discussion of the points they had started discussing during their morning meeting. The most important points were the withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon, the agreement on security arrangements between the two countries, and the termination of the state of war. These subjects include numerous points which were raised during the subcommittees' meetings today, including that of Major Sa'd Haddad's forces' deployment in Sidon, An-Nabatiyah and other towns in souther Lebanon as well as the intensification of Israeli military patrols in Beirut's suburbs and the Lebanese Army's deployment in greater Beirut. These subjects were raised by the head of the Israeli delegation at the beginning of this morning's plenary session. Dr Kimche said: On behalf of my government, I welcome the Lebanese Army's deployment in greater Beirut and I wish that it will deploy in all the Lebanese territory so the Lebanese state's sovereignty will be restored on all Lebanese soil.

On the question of the [Israeli] military patrols in Beirut's suburbs, Dr Kimche said they were operated because of some Palestinians' infiltration into West Beirut but their purpose is not at all to confront the Lebanese Army. On Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces' deployment in Sidon, An-Nabatiyah, and other towns and villages in the south, the head of the Israeli delegation said the question of Maj Haddad's forces' deployment is part of the security measures and should not influence the course of the negotiations. He added that Israel considers [tanzur ila] Maj Haddad and his forces only with regard to the security arrangements.

Dr Kimche concluded his statement by saying that his country welcomes the recent statements made by Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim on the negotiations, the way they are proceeding and the progress they achieved. He said Israel shares his view on this subject -- that is, on the progress achieved in the negotiations.

Head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal declared his satisfaction with the explanations given by the head of the Israeli delegation. He said: There are two basic subjects which Lebanon categorically refuses to bargain on. They are: the demand for the establishment of observation points in the south and the subject of the UN forces and the multinational forces.

Dr Fattal added: There are other means to ensure security in Lebanon and Israel. These means are different from the ways and means proposed by the Israeli side. During the subcommittee meetings this afternoon, the discussion of all these subjects was resumed, in addition to the issues related to the termination of the state of war. At 1630, the subcommittee concluded their meetings. The meetings will be resumed at 0930 tomorrow, Friday, in Netanya.

Negotiating circles have affirmed that the atmosphere during today's negotiations was satisfactory and that Lebanon's stand is firm and principled and will not change on the unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from its territory. That was a brief account on today's negotiations in Netanya. The three delegations are remaining in the Dan Hotel to resume the negotiations at 0930 tomorrow. As for the journalists, most of them have left for Beirut and the others have remained here to cover tomorrow morning's negotiations. That is all for now. We await the resumption of the negotiations tomorrow to provide you with anything new about them. This is the Information Ministry delegate to the negotiations speaking to you directly from Netanya. I now turn you back to our studios in Beirut.

Subcommittees Resume 18 Feb

NC180922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The subcommittees emanating from the Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. delegations resumed their meetings at the Dan Hotel in Netanya at 0930 today. According to a dispatch received from the delegation of the Ministry of Information to the negotiations, the subcommittee on withdrawals and security arrangements and the subcommittee on the termination of the state of war are the two which are currently meeting to discuss the points raised in yesterday's plenary session and during the meetings of the subcommittees.

The Ministry of Information delegation in Netanya said in its dispatch that the meetings of the subcommittees will continue until noon today, after which a general meeting will be held to agree on the joint statement concerning the 16th round of the negotiations.

LEBANESE FORCES COMMANDER AFRAM MEETS PRESS

NC161537 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1209 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Press conference held by Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram on 16 February, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afram] It has become the habit of the Lebanese Forces to express their views very frankly and clearly. This is what Bashir al-Jumayyil taught us. I have called this meeting to clarify the views with regard the events in Lebanon. One of the most important subjects on which we would like to explain our view is the Lebanese Army's deployment in East Beirut, because we have not yet clarified our view regarding this subject.

First of all, I will present a brief account of the subject and then I will give you a chance to ask your questions on any subject.

First of all, the Lebanese Forces Command Council has decided to facilitate the process of the Lebanese Army's deployment in East Beirut in order to bring about the success of the greater Beirut plan. The important thing is that this decision is a political one. For this reason, we must not compare the Army's deployment in West Beirut and its deployment in East Beirut. The question of the Army's deployment in West Beirut was raised years ago and several times. It was rejected by the Palestinians, the Syrians, and their local allies every time. The Army was deployed in West Beirut only after the Israeli army passed through it and the Army went to take the Israeli army's place.

The Army went into West Beirut -- a devastated area in which there was no security. The Army went in to restore authority, security, and stability in that area.

The Army's task in West Beirut is still difficult even though the Syrian and Palestinian regular armies have withdrawn from it, because there are still secret terrorist cells there -- cells which are trying to rebuild the terrorist pyramid which had used West Beirut as a staging point and as a headquarters as well as an international staging point to export terror to the world.

The Army has now deployed in the eastern area, which is an area of security and peace. This deployment is not a new matter, because during the past 7 years, East Beirut, free Lebanon, and its borders before June 1982 were the basic areas for the army, its barracks, its command centers, and its training centers. Therefore, this is not new. All of us are aware that there are no terrorist cells in East Beirut. All of us are aware that there is (?no need) for the foreigners who are illegally present in Lebanon for sabotage purposes. We hope that the Army's deployment in East Beirut will be a first step in its deployment throughout all of Lebanon. We will have thus fulfilled, or are fulfilling, Bashir al-Jumayyil's plan -- that is, the 10,452 [kilometers, the area of Lebanon] plan. We will also be establishing the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

Our political decision also signifies that we, as the Lebanese Forces, are the natural allies of the Lebanese Army and the legitimate authority. The Army's deployment in the eastern area, which is an area of peace and security, also signifies that it has to assume the responsibility of maintaining this security and peace. On this basis, we ask the Lebanese Army and its command, officers, and men to safeguard the trust. At present the greater Beirut plan is rejected by all the groups which have been rejecting it for several years, because they are afraid that the Army's deployment will prevent them from achieving their subversive aims in the country. The Army's deployment will remove the illusions, or the accusations, that have been leveled against the Lebanese Forces as seeking to create a state within a state.

Certainly, the Army's deployment in the eastern area does not mean that the Lebanese Forces are absolved of their national task, because the Lebanese Forces will continue their duty as long as foreign armies are occupying our territory and as long as there is as much as 1 inch of Lebanese territory that is not under legitimate Lebanese sovereignty.

That is our stand on this subject. I will now give you a chance to ask your questions on any subject or on any domain.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Some progress has been made. Everyone can see [words indistinct] quiet. I believe that this progress is first and foremost a result of the fact that the Israeli side is for the first time included in the agreement and that it signed as a party to this agreement. The Israeli side has put all its weight behind easing the situation. In addition, we as the Lebanese Forces, our aim is to ease the situation, because we want to remove the illusion that there is a sectarian dispute between the Christians and the Druze. We all know that the basic goal of the Lebanese Forces is the 10,452 square kilometer area of Lebanon. This means the unity of the land and people. One of the bases of the unity of the land and people in Lebanon is the unity of the mountain, which means the unity of the Christians and the Druze. Thus, our basic goal is to ease the situation so that both sects can again coexist. For this reason, there were some good signs. Certainly, Walid Junblatt's group does not (?want) to ease the situation. This group is again trying to torpedo the situation. In view of the fact that the Israelis are currently applying pressure to ease the situation in the areas under their control, Junblatt's men are resorting to kidnapping people in the areas still under Syrian control.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] As for Syria, based on the experience of the past 8 years, everyone knows the Syrian regime's ambitions and aims in Lebanon. I do not think that Syria has been possessed by the Holy Spirit to change its designs. Proceeding from this point, our position toward Syria is still the same, particularly now that Syria has thrown itself further into the lap of the Soviet Union, which is trying to extend communism into our area. One of the bases of our struggle is against communism. Regarding the Palestinians, and following their defeat in Lebanon this summer, we ask them to stop considering Lebanon in their calculations. If they think of reestablishing the pyramids that they used to have in Lebanon and have the same presence as in the past, I think that everyone will resist this situation more strongly, because there are now other Lebanese parties which share our views. Thus, we can confront them more strongly.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Regarding the Kahan issue, we consider the whole matter as a domestic Israeli issue. We all heard the pressure of this commission in Israel and the Cabinet reshuffle had the international pressure on Israel [words indistinct]. We consider this a domestic Israeli issue. Regarding the accusations against the Lebanese Forces, our position is clear: We will not abide by the accusations of a foreign commission. If an official Lebanese commission accuses us, that will be a different story. We are at the disposal of any Lebanese commission. At present this is taking place, but we will not recognize accusations by or views of a foreign commission.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Regarding this issue, our views as (?Lebanese Forces) are clear. We have repeatedly made the reasons why we want to achieve these aims clear.

At present, the Lebanese state's situation is very difficult. If we look at his excellency the president's position, his position as a president of the republic cannot be the same as a resistance leader. He is trying to achieve the goals we aspire to in the safest way possible to ensure Lebanon's interests. Where we go and how is up to the Lebanese state. Certainly, as I said, our views on this issue are known. Also as I said, if the negotiations [for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon] fail, we have other options. We hope that the negotiations will succeed, because Lebanon's salvation lies in the withdrawals. If the withdrawals are not implemented, I do not think that Lebanon will return to its previous state of affairs.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Practically, if the negotiations fail, what will happen? If Israel withdraws to the 45-km line without any Syrian withdrawal, for instance, [words indistinct] nothing will remain of Lebanon. Proceeding from this premise, our other option in case the negotiations fail is to continue the liberation war, because our aim, as everyone knows, is the 10,452 square kilometers.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Our principled stand as Lebanese Forces toward the United States is that the United States is a basic ally of Lebanon. [words indistinct] Lebanon's link with the free world. We consider the United States the basic pillar of the free world. For this reason, we recall the U.S. assistance and initiative on Lebanon. So far, the United States has been unable to give what it promised, because all factors on the spot are beyond its will. For this reason, we as Lebanese must basically rely on ourselves. Surely, there is U.S. help and support. When we match Israel and become stronger, then the United States will help us and give us further support in the negotiations and toward our environs. Our basic reliance must be on ourselves [words indistinct].

AN-NAHAR SAYS AWACS CANNOT THWART THREAT

NC180711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing the U.S. role in the area, AN-NAHAR says: Lebanon feels that observing the area with AWACS aircraft is not enough, because what could happen on the ground in the whole area cannot be controlled from the air. Therefore, Lebanon is doing its utmost so that Ambassador Habib will address a kind of early warning to the U.S. Administration. This warning should stress that the delay in the withdrawals [of foreign forces from Lebanon] constitutes a threat to the whole area, and that such a threat cannot be thwarted by the AWACS planes in Egyptian and Gulf airspace.

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER'S DEATH ANNOUNCED 17 FEB

NC172119 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee has announced the death of party leader Nicola ash-Shawi of a heart attack today. He was over 70.

AL-ASAD REPORTEDLY MAKES SECRET VISIT TO MOSCOW

JN180811 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Citing reliable sources, the London-based newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made a brief secret visit to Moscow during the past 24 hours, during which he held very important talks with Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov. President al-Asad left Damascus for Moscow early yesterday on a visit which was shrouded in secrecy.

The paper learned that the Syrian president was accompanied only by the chief of staff, General Hikmat ash-Shihabi.

DAMASCUS DAILY ON RDF, PRO-U.S. ARAB ROLES

JN180918 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] AL-BA'TH writes the following comment: The second phase of the U.S. plan is devoted to creating Arab milieux that would help move the Rapid Deployment Forces [RDF] to Jordan and Iraq simultaneously with the Zionist forces' movements in Lebanon with the aim of dealing the anticipated blow to the Arab Syrian forces.

It has been the habit of the United States to fabricate uproars prior to the execution of its venomous designs. The United States -- now that it has become sure that Syria constitutes the stumbling block vis-a-vis the achievement of its designs, now that the defeatist regimes are afraid of their masses, and now that Israel is currently collapsing in view of the crack that has stricken the Zionist entity -- is actually in need of heating up the region but with different methods.

The Zionist threats to the Arabs have often been the only element in the U.S. equation. But the current phase shows that the United States has found various parties all of which threaten the Arab right. According to the U.S. plan, every Arab regime that rotates in the U.S. orbit has its own role in the upcoming plot. The Egyptian regime, for example, is authorized to threaten Libya and defend the Jordanian regime. The Jordanian king, on his part, is asked to get rid of the PLO's weight. Other regimes are asked to receive and finance the RDF to evade the financial burdens dictated by the Iraqi president's war by trying to topple the Iranian revolution.

Hence, the roles have been assigned, according to which the Arab-Israeli struggle has been transformed into an inter-Arab struggle to serve the U.S. strategy.

TALKS WITH DPRK OFFICIAL REPORTED 17 FEB

JN172025 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA) -- At 1730 today a session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministery between Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and Pak Myong-ku, vice minister of foreign affairs in the DPRK and his delegation. The talks were attended by a number of competent Foreign Ministry officials and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus. During the session, discussion revolved around bilateral relations and means to promote them as well as coordination of the topics on the agenda of the nonaligned summit conference scheduled to be held in Delhi next March.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI-LEBANESE TALKS IN NETANYA

TA171217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The delegations of Israel and Lebanon are meeting in Netanya again today. Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal asked for explanations from Israel about the incident in which an Israeli military vehicle broke through a Lebanese Army roadblock in East Beirut. Lebanese officials said that in their view Israel was trying to weaken the Government of Lebanon to justify its presence in Beirut.

Head of the Israeli delegation David Kimche told the Lebanese that the actions being taken in Beirut by Israel were intended only to prevent the Palestinian terrorists from reinfiltrating into the city. Kimche said Israel welcomed the Lebanese Army's deployment in Beirut. On the deployment of Major Haddad's forces in southern Lebanon, he said it was not intended to foil the negotiations or to dictate the security arrangements, although Israel belives those forces do have a role to play in this framework.

Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a has learned from sources in the Lebanese delegation that Beirut does not attach great importance to Haddad's personnel entering Sidon and An-Nabatiyah. The only thing disturbing the Lebanese is the demonstrative way in which this was done.

Two committees are now sitting in Netanya: The committee to end the state of belligerency is already busy with formulations. The military committee is discussing security arrangements.

Further Report

TA171847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] There was another round of negotiations today between Israel and Lebanon. Today's session was held at the Dan Hotel in Netanya. Israeli representative David Kimche told the Lebanese that although Israel was glad to see the Lebanese Army taking over control of the Beirut area, the continual infiltration of terroriss meant that the Israeli army's presence was still necessary. On today's talks, reporter Vivienne Roystein:

[Begin recording] The tripartite talks were held today at the Dan Hotel in the seaside resort of Netanya. At a 30-minute plenary session this morning, David Kimche welcomed the fact that the Lebanese Army is deploying its forces in East Beirut and thereby extending its full sovereignty over Lebanon. However, Kimche said the steady infiltration of the PLO into Beirut has required the Israeli army to continue its activity in the area. However, this is in no way contrary to Lebanese interest.

The delegations then broke into two subcommittees: on security and legal arrangements. According to Avi Pazner, Israel's spokesman, the delegations this afternoon were busy drafting those points on which progress was made both in the legal committee and the military committee. In the military committee, the main points discussed were security arrangements in southern Lebanon. In the legal subcommittee, they discussed the question of immunity and the prevention of terror. By immunity, Pazner explained that the principle of liaison offices had been agreed upon, but the details regarding the function of these offices and immunities for those persons manning them had to be worked out. The Lebanese delegations have not yet stated where they want their liaison offices positioned.

The establishment of warning stations in southern Lebanon also was discussed. As Israel feels, they are important to prevent terrorism from south Lebanon. I asked Pazner if there had been any contact with American envoy Philip Habib today.

[Pazner] No, not as far as we know. Maybe the Americans have contacted him, but not as far as we know.

[Roystein] Was there any further discussion about Sa'd Haddad's forces and their placement?

[Pazner] This morning we discussed Sa'd Haddad and we made it clear that Sa'd Haddad's move yesterday into Sidon and An-Nabatiyah was nothing to [word indistinct] with the negotiations. We are negotiating here the security arrangements in southern Lebanon, in which Major Sa'd Haddad and his army will have an important role to play, but his movements yesterday, they do not cause any prejudice to the neogtiations going on now and I understand that this is also the Lebanese position.

[Roystein] Antoine Fattal, however, stressed this morning that there would be no compromise on the question of Israeli warning stations and the deployment of UNIFIL. The Lebanese delegation will spend the evening at the Dan Hotel and the subcommittees will reconvene at 0930 tomorrow morning. A full plenary will meet at 1100 am to review the ground covered over the 2 days. Vivienne Roystein, Netanya. [end recording]

U.S. MARINES CITED ON EAST BEIRUT DEPLOYMENT

TA181112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The spokesman for the U.S. Marines in Beirut says that contrary to the French and Italians, the Marines will not deploy in East Beirut or set up permanent positions there. He said the Marines similarly have no intention of increasing their patrols which currently stand at two a day. Each patrol involves four jeeps and about a dozen soldiers. According to the U.S. Marines, mechanized patrols are the most effective way to maintain order in Beirut.

CONFRONTATION WITH FRENCH SOLDIERS DESCRIBED

TA181022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] A confrontation between the IDF and French UNIFIL soldiers on the outskirts of Beirut has occurred. Sources from the Lebanese Army have reported that yesterday afternoon an armed clash between IDF soldiers and French troops who came to Khaldah in a convoy and wanted to enter Beirut was avoided at the last minute. The IDF soldiers tried to disarm the French troops, but the French refused, jumped down from their cars, and took up battle positions. After serious exchanges of words, the IDF soldiers, according to the sources, called their commanders and then allowed French convoy to continue. The sources also reported that the Lebanese Army has been ordered to no longer allow the IDF guards to break through its roadblocks as happend a few days ago. It is true that the Lebanese soldiers were told not to open fire at the IDF, but they have been ordered to station tanks along the road to prevent IDF patrols from passing.

RPG FIRED AT IDF TANK ON BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD

TA180947 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0937 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] An RPG this morning was fired at an IDF tank moving along the Beirut-Damascus highway about 500 meters west of an IDF roadblock. Our forces suffered no casualties. Our correspondent in Lebanon Alon Diskin reports that the IDF has begun widescale searches.

IDF OFFICER WARNS OF DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS IN SIDON

TA180712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] An officer of the IDF's civilian administration in Sidon has said that certain circles in Sidon recently tried to disrupt relations between the IDF and the Palestinians following killings committed in the area. The officer told our correspondent Gabi Zohar that in meetings between IDF representatives and the Palestinians the rifts were straightened out. He pointed out that the inhabitants of Sidon had received sympathetically the arrival of Haddad's soldiers in the city, although many of them fear that these soldiers will not guard them like soldiers from the Lebanese Army.

IDF BEIRUT COMMANDER ON TERRORISM IN LEBANON

TA171512 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1445 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The IDF commander of the Beirut sector, Brigadier General Ammon Lipkin, said nearly all those carrying out acts of terrorism in Lebanon come from Syrian territory. The terrorists' equipment is East European of the sort the Syrians have and they are trained in territory under Syrian control.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTARY VIEWS WEST BANK PROBLEM

TA151447 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 83 p 11

[Commentary by Mati Golan: "Begin's Asset"]

[Text] When Israel calms down after the storm that broke over our heads in the wake of the inquiry commission's report, two issues that were the center of our world before the report will again take over national attention. One is the negotiations with Lebanon and the other is finding a solution to the problem of Judaea and Samaria.

It is reasonable to assume that the formula for getting down off the Lebanese limb will be found more easily and rapidly if the contacts over this issue are freed from the overbearing presence of Ari'el Sharon -- not necessarily because his positions were more aggressive than those of his Cabinet colleagues, but primarily because his style and personality caused superfluous confrontations and conflicts, with both the Lebanese and the Americans, whose good will is essential for finding a solution.

What is very much more complicated and difficult is the problem of Judaea and Samaria: The conventional assumption is that the only path to an arrangement here is through negotiations at whose center stands King Husayn. The question that is left open is what the foundations are upon which these contacts will be conducted and what preconditions are required to lead both sides to discussions.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin has a clear answer that he repeats at every opportunity: Israel will welcome negotiations with Husayn, but only on the basis of the Camp David agreements and without any preconditions.

The United States is not saying specifically that it is abandoning Camp David. It is even continuing to claim its adherence to those agreements, but moves and statements by its leaders reveal that it is aiming for negotiations over a permanent agreement whose basis is the Reagan plan. The U.S. position on preconditions is clearer: Israel must announce that it is prepared to freeze the settlements, at least for the negotiating period.

Superficially, it seems that Begin has a weighty claim. After all, he claims, agreements were signed at Camp David, to which the United States is a party. These agreements state categorically that the next move in Judaea and Samaria will be the establishment of autonomy. Only after 5 years of autonomy will this area's future be decided upon through negotiations in which Israel, Egypt, and Palestinian representatives participate.

If this was a question of a commercial deal, this claim would be binding not only superficially, but in fact. There is no doubt that in the political field, too, the aim should be that agreements are honored in spirit and as they are written. There should certainly be no acceptance of the violation of agreements or clauses in a way that basically changes the situation created by those agreements or that they were intended to create. Thus, for instance, if Egypt were to take action that could jeopardize the state of peace with Israel, this could and should be regarded as a breach of agreement not to be tolerated.

In contrast to this, when the deviation is intended to achieve the goal at which the existing agreements aim, the deviation should not be regarded as being a violation of or abandoning the agreements. To this, one should add that in the political field a certain maneuvering space should be permitted for changing circumstances. Correct statesmanship is not measured by uncompromising adherence to the language of the agreements.

The formulation of autonomy has never been a goal per se -- neither in the Camp David agreements nor outside them. It was a means to achieve the primary goal of a settlement of the Palestinian problem. Because of this, there is nothing sacred in the idea of autonomy, something that must not be crossed on fear of death.

What the United States is proposing is a way to reach the main goal while skipping over the means decided on at Camp David. Such a proposal is, perhaps, a deviation from the language of the agreement, but it certainly does not contradict its spirit. One can even say that if the proposal is viable it fits in with the spirit of Camp David more than does the autonomy idea.

There is no doubt that the prime minister, as a man who is blessed with legal skills, understands this. His adherence to the Camp David clauses is not connected with his zealousness to implement the agreements as they are written. It springs, first and foremost, from his awareness that a permanent agreement with Husayn will make it incumbent on him to make compromises that he does not want to make. On the other hand, it is clear to him that Husayn cannot come to negotiations over something that is less than a permanent solution for the West Bank. His only reason for negotiations with Israel lies in his desire to get back most of the West Bank territory. This is also the only justification he can have, from the pan-Arab aspect, for sitting down with Israel.

The situation then is that the Americans and the Jordanians are interested in negotiations over a permanent solution, while Begin is not interested in this. It seems apparent, therefore, that the United States and Jordan will formulate moves that will force the Begin government to come to discussions. In fact, they are doing just the opposite by presenting a precondition, which proves that they have learned nothing about Israeli mentality on the issue of war and peace.

The average Israeli can sometimes be a hawk and sometimes a dove, but he is always, first and foremost, a lover of peace. The majority of the Israeli public opposed the return of all the Sinai to Egypt. An even greater majority opposed the dismantling of the settlements. All this was correct until the moment when President as-Sadat's foot touched Israeli soil. From that moment own, most of the hawks turned into snow white doves.

This moral also applies to Judaea and Samaria. There are people who claim that there is no clear comparison between the Sinai and the West Bank because with regard to the latter there is more profound emotion. There is undoubtedly a grain of truth to that claim. But despite that, I am convinced that this sensitivity, too, will melt away appreciably when a genuine possibility of signing a peace treaty with Jordan and the inhabitants of the territories is the alternative.

The way to force the Government of Israel to negotiate over a permanent solution for the West Bank is not, then, through threats of moves connected with economic and military aid. The only efficient way to achieve this goal is through the public in Israel.

As long as there is no partner for the negotiations, an appreciable section of the Israeli public will continue, actively or passively, to support the settlement policy or, in any event, will not oppose it. From the moment that such negotiations appear in a convincing form, everything will change.

Against this background, the role of the United States at this stage is not to put pressure on the Government of Israel, but on Jordan. No pressure whatsoever will convince Begin to announce his willingness for a freeze on settlements, because he is not interested in negotiations with Husayn. And as long as there is no partner and no negotiations, Begin can rely on broad public support.

The only possibility for a change in this state of affairs lies in an unequivocal announcement by Husayn that he is ready to conduct peace negotiations with Israel. It should be clear to anyone who knows how things go in Israel that such a move by Husayn would create public pressure that could not be ignored by any government. With Husayn as a partner, there would certainly be a majority of the Israeli public who would demand, and with the same degree of aggressiveness as it did in the affair of Egypt, that the government agree to a freeze on settlements. Faced with such pressure, Begin and his colleagues would have to choose between two alternatives: to moderate their positions or to fall.

The Jordanian king's shrieks about the facts being determined in the field cannot be a substitute for a unequivocal announcement by him about willingness to sign a peace treaty with Israel. The facts in the field are not yet, at present, so decisive as to make a peace move impossible, but if the day comes when these facts do swing the balance of the scales, Husayn will only have himself to blame.

BEGIN MEETS WITH IDF LEADERSHIP 17 FEBRUARY

TA171124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Begin today met with the IDF leadership. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the chief of staff, his deputy, the Air Force commander, the Navy commander, and the head of the IDF intelligence arrived at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem and gave him surveys and assessments. The prime minister will continue to receive reports about events in the IDF and in the defense establishment through his military secretary, Lieutenant Colonel 'Azri'el Nevo. He will continue to meet with the leaders of the defense establishment and IDF officers.

PRESIDENT, MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR OAU MEETING

AB171923 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 17 (AFP) -- Heads of state and government started arriving here today for the 12-nation Organization of African Unity (OAU) contact committee mini-summit, scheduled to open here tomorrow. Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, the OAU chairman, his Vice-President Mwai Kibaki and the entire Cabinet were at Nairobi airport to welcome the participants, among them President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Milton Obote of Uganda, Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge.

The Malian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye, had arrived earlier, while the Libyan delegation, led by Prime Minister Mohammed Jalloud, as well as delegations from Lesotho, Mali and Mozambique, were still expected.

The 12-nation contact committee was appointed following the failure of two attempts last year to stage the 19th OAU summit in Tripoli, which broke up through disagreements over the admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) and the representation of Chad. The Nairobi mini-summit is expected to try to iron out, among other things, these differences and decide on the new venue for the failed 19th summit.

The SDAR, whose Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, was first admitted to an OAU committee meeting in Addis Ababa almost a year ago, after being recognized by 26 of the organization's 50 members. The resulting dispute has meant that no OAU meeting has been able to take place since, because of walkouts by the SDAR's supporters and defenders. The SDAR was persuaded to stay away from the second Tripoli summit, which then collapsed in a row over whether the government of new Chadian President Hissein Habre was legitimate. The SDAR has said it will not stay away from future OAU meetings, and in a letter to President Moi published today said it rejected "the policy of blackmail...practised by Morocco with the complicity of the United States to attain objectives contrary to the OAU Charter and the interests of Africans."

The position of Libya remains the great uncertainty. The 18th summit in Nairobi in 1981 decided that the 19th would be held in Tripoli, and it was thought unlikely that the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would want it transferred elsewhere if the committee thought that might help matters.

Of the 12 members of the committee, only Kenya and Nigeria have not recognized the SDAR.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI ON U.S. MANEUVERS, AL-QADHDHAFI STATEMENT

NC180730 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0655 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. radio stations simultaneously announced at dawn yesterday, Jamahiriyah time, that the United States has dispatched four units of the U.S. 6th Fleet to the middle of the Mediterranean and ordered them to move toward the Libyan coast. The units include the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz.

The United States has also dispatched four AWACS aircraft to Egypt. The radio stations reported that this U.S. military move toward Libya and the dispatch of the AWACS to Egypt came at the personal request of President Husni Mubarak. While the U.S. President claimed at a press conference that the movement of the U.S. units is connected with U.S.-Egyptian joint maneuvers currently being held, a U.S. White House official affirmed after U.S. President Ronald Reagan's press conference that maneuvers have been carried out off the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean in which the aircraft carrier Nimitz took part.

On the other hand, an Egyptian official spokesman has said that the AWACS aircraft and the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz have not been participating in joint maneuvers with Egypt, as President Reagan said.

The news of the U.S. military movement toward the Libyan coast has been the lead story in all world and Arab information media. The world news agencies, radios, and newspapers published yesterday evening carried the announcement by the brother leader of the revolution before the General People's Congress yesterday that the Libyan people will not allow the United States or any other state to enter the territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra, and that the Libyan people are fully prepared to turn this gulf into a red gulf in defense of our waters, land, and air.

TRIPOLI COMMENT ON REAGAN MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI

NC180810 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The lackey Numayri yesterday received a message from U.S. President Reagan which, reportedly, is connected with the close relations existing between the lackey's government and the U.S. Government. The message, which was delivered by a U.S. envoy who arrived in Khartoum yesterday, affirmed the U.S. Administration's support of the Sudanese regime, which has turned the life of the Sudanese people into misery and deprivation.

It was also reported, on the basis of a report carried by the official SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, that the message also included an affirmation of the humiliating U.S. position and an attempt to draw the Sudan -- land and people -- by coercion to the imperialist circles.

JANA: CHAD REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF INVASION PLANS

LD171603 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Bardai, Jumada 5, Feb 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The information secretariat of the Chadian National Unity Government issued a statement here yesterday refuting allegations circulated by the imperialist and colonialist circles against the Chadian Provisional National Government, led by Goukouni Oueddei. It also refuted allegations by the Western press that Libya was preparing for an invasion of Chad.

The statement said: "We remind international public opinion that Libya intervened in the past in Chad at the request of the legitimate government, recognised by the African countries in the Lagos agreement.

Similarly, the Chadian Provisional Government of National Unity asked the Libyan forces to leave Chadian territory. The Libyan forces withdrew after helping in the enforcement of security in Chad. The last Libyan soldier left Chad in November 1981.

It stressed: The Chadian people will intensify the struggle against the Habre clique until it overthrows this corrupt gang, which bro ght destruction and poverty to the Chadian people.

The statement cited several operations carried out by the national liberation army, throughout the country, against Habre's gangs. On 5 January a group of fighters carried out a successful operation in Sar in the south setting ablaze an ammunition dump and killing its guards. Last October, the liberation army downed an American C-130 plane, 25 km from Mongo in the central regions. The plane was carrying weapons and ammunition. The Army also captured Casra city [spelling as received] for 15 days last December.

In town Birko-Indi Tibsti [spelling as received], the liberation army repulsed an attack by rebel Habre forces inflicting heavy damage, including 120 killed and large quantities of U.S. and Zionist-made weapons and transport carriers captured.

SUDAN

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY CHAD'S HISSEIN HABRE

Habre: Al-Qadhdhafi 'No 1 Enemy'

LD180554 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Feb 83

[From the "Headlines of the Daily AL-AYYAM"]

[Text] The Chadian president: My talks with Numayri have confirmed the identity of our views with regard to all bilateral, African, and international issues, and will contribute to the consolidation of the developing relations between us. We are determined to regain our lands which are occuped by Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi is the No 1 enemy.

Habre on Libya, Sudan

LD180640 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Chadian President Hissein Habre, who is currently visiting the Sudan, has reaffirmed that the Libyan threat along the northern border of Chad is not new. He said at the press conference which he held yesterday evening at Friendship Hall in Khartoum, that Libya occupies more than 1,500 square kilometers of Chadian territories. In order to protect this area which it occupies, Libya flagrantly and with force has intervened in Chad. It uses vast material means to arm the mercenaries and send them to Chad.

In reply to a question about national reconciliation in Chad President Habre said: After entering Ndjamena we declared that the Chadian people should forget their problems and turn to the reconstruction of their country. He said: We have conducted direct and indirect contacts with many sides to realize this objective. We contacted Ahmed Asil before his death. We also had indirect contacts with Goukouni [Oueddei] and Asil's successor. There are some people who did not respond to the appeal. We know their reasons and understand them. There are some who did respond to the appeal, and they are in Chad now where some of the adversaries of yesterday are in high positions in the state, including the prime minister of the former government of Goukouni.

In reply to a question about relations between Chad and Africa, President Hissein Habre said: In Africa Chad has friends and adversaries. What happened at the Tripoli summit was a problem created by Libya becuase of its own ambitions in our country. But many African states refused to submit to the orders of the Libyan colonel. Their plans at the Manaqua conference also failed.

The minister of national guidance and information, Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, delivered a speech at the beginning of the press conference in which he saluted the Chadian president and praised the strong relations between the Sudanese and Chadian peoples. Then President Hissein Habre spoke expressing his pleasure at visiting Sudan. He said that his visit to the Sudan is within the framework of friendship and solidarity that link the two countries and their peoples. He referred to his talks with President Numayri and said: There was total identity in our views with regard to the various issues. He expressed his thanks to the Sudanese president and people for the feelings of friendship and solidarity toward the fraternal Chadian people. President Habre referred to the problems from which Chad is suffering at the present time. He also spoke about national reconciliation which has been taking place in the country.

Habre Statement Before Leaving

NC181019 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (MENA) -- The Chadian president has announced that his country is still exposed to Libyan threats. Libya still occupies 1,500 square kilometers of Chad, and it has huge concentrations in the northern region. At a press conference he held in Khartoum last night, Habre stressed his country's determination to regain its land. He said: We desire to solve our problems through peaceful means, but we do not know if the peaceful solutions can be achieved because this depends on the other party. He added that Libya is creating problems for Chad to prevent it from playing its role in the international community. In this respect he pointed to the failure of the Libyan attempts during the second attempt to convene the African summit in Tripoli and during the Managua conference, where only two countries backed it. He also pointed out that he does not rule out the possibility of another attempt by Libya at the nonaligned summit conference scheduled to convene in New Delhi in March, stressing that Libya will fail as it did before.

On the possibility of concluding a joint defense agreement with Egypt and Sudan, Habre denied the presence of such an agreement and stressed that Chad is a strong country and relies on itself. He said that Chad is a free country and can conclude agreements with any country.

Regarding the domestic situation in Chad, Habre pointed out that despite the fact that stability and peace prevail in his country, the problems that resulted from a 17-year-long war have not yet been solved. He described the change that he made last June as profound and historic. A basic charter was enacted that represents a form of constitution and a government. A national army and a consultative council were formed including all the regions and various factions in Chad. He said that this does not mean that all his country's problems are solved. His country is threatened with starvation and epidemics and it lacks roads, transport, trade, and economy. He pointed out that Chad has not received the humanitarian aid aprpoved by the international conference held recently in Geneva for this purpose.

Habre Addresses Chadian Community

JN181124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA) -- Chadian President Hissein Habre, at a meeting with the Chadian community in Khartoum, has spoken of the strong relations between Sudan and Chad. He added that Sudan is not just a neighboring country but also a sisterly state that has welcomed and continues to welcome the sons of Chad.

Habre affirmed that stability currently prevails in every Chadian province under one government and one army. He said that the Chadian people, who suffered a great deal under foreign intervention and occupation, will never allow a foreign occupation again. Habre added that despite the perilous situation through which Chad had passed, the Chadian authorities extend their hands for reconciliation with all factions. He said it is a incumbent upon the Chadian people to be vigilant of the expected Libyan danger. The sons of the Chadian community raised the following slogan: Death and destruction to Libya and its leader Al-Qadhdhafi.

Habre urged the sons of Chad to participate in the reconstruction of Chad. The Chadian president and his delegation left Khartoum for home after a 3-day work visit to Sudan, during which he held talks with his brother President Ja'far Numayri. A press statement will be issued in Khartoum and Ndjamena at 1900, Sudan time, on President Habre's visit and talks with President Ja'far Numayri.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY WALTERS

JN171853 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) -- Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president and head of the state security organ, received here today General Walters, envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who arrived in the country today carrying a written message from the U.S. President to President Numayri. The discussion during this meeting dealt with world and regional problems.

At-Tayyib and Walters also exchanged viewpoints on matters of mutual concern. Gen Walters emphasized U.S. support for Sudan and said that the United States stands by Sudan under all circumstances. The U.S. envoy also asserted that Sudan plays a major and significant role in the region for the sake of maintaining peace, stability, and security.

The U.S. envoy is on a tour which will also cover Kenya, Somalia, and Morocco.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY WALTERS 15 FEB

LD151921 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1806 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba today received a personal message from the American President Ronald Reagan in which he reaffirmed to him his feelings of admiration and appreciation and the anxiety of the United States for the security, stability, and prosperity of Tunisia.

This message was delivered to the great combatant by Mr Vernon Walters, American ambassador at large at the American State Department, in the presence of Mr Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Slaheddine Baly, Beji Caid es-Sebsi, and Walter Cutler, U.S. ambassador to Tunisia.

The American ambassador at large said that the message expressed the American President's desire to be able to count on his wise friends in solving the Middle East question. Mr Walters said that he had briefed the head of state on the views of the American Government on this matter.

On the other hand, in the meetings that brought him together with a number of the government members including Mr Mohamed Mzali, the American ambassador at large reviewed, noting that his talks with the prime minister had been frank and passed in an atmosphere of complete concord. [sentence as heard]

At the conclusion of his statement Mr Walters expressed his satisfaction at the warm welcome accorded to him by President Habib Bourguiba and the understanding he had found with him and the members of the government. He reaffirmed his personal desire to come back to Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR TO ATTEND ALL FUTURE OAU MEETINGS

AB161815 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, Feb. 16 (AFP) -- The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) is planning to attend all future meetings of the Organisation of African Unity, SDAR Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim said here today.

With the 12-nation OAU committee due to convene here on Friday to discuss a third attempt at holding the 19th OAU summit meeting, Mr. Hakim rejected in advance a possible request that his country should stay away from the conference.

The SDAR, which was proclaimed by the Polisario front fighting Morocco in the Western Sahara, triggered the OAU crisis when it was admitted to the pan-African body last February at a ministerial meeting. The OAU committee was set up in Tripoli last November after the second attempt to hold the summit failed because of disagreement over Chadian representation. The summit first failed to open because of a boycott in protest against the presence of the SDAR.

"The committee of 12 must take into consideration the position of the SDAR concerning its future participation in all the OAU meetings," Mr. Hakim said.

The heads of state of Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia were expected here tomorrow for the meeting to be chaired by President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya who is also OAU chairman.

Mali and Lesotho will be represented by their foreign ministers, official sources said, while the representatives of Angola, Ethiopia, Libya, Uganda, and Mozambique had yet to be announced.

"The committee is facing a historic test," Mr. Hakim said. He said the committee had to decide between considering "the responsibilities of the crisis in a fair way" and "sacrificing the OAU's principles" and giving in to the wishes of the United States by asking the SDAR not to take part in the next summit. He said that until he had "proof to the contrary" he was sceptical that the committee would take the second approach.

Mr. Hakim said that the 19 African countries opposed to the SDAR's membership "say they are concerned about the OAU's future. Let them use the OAU framework with us to settle our problems."

CAMEROON

BIYA MEETS WITH MITTERRAND, ENDS VISIT TO FRANCE

AB170920 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The president of the republic yesterday concluded his first official working visit to France, which lasted 2 days. President Paul Biya will leave Paris at 1000 today.

In accordance with the program for the 2d day of the official visit, the head of state yesterday held another round of talks with his French counterpart, President Francois Mitterrand. He also met with some businessmen representing the National Council of French Employers, granted some audiences, received the press and met with the Cameroonian community in France.

President Paul Biya delivered a message to these Cameroonians in France. This was primarily a message of congratulation for the maturity they demonstrated on the occasion of the changes made in the leadership of the state last November. The state concerns everybody. There is room for all in the field of nation building, President Biya said. Cameroonians both inside and outside the country must participate in this common task. The head of state's speech was an appeal for solidarity in the face of the nation's destiny.

CHAD

'CHADIAN NATIONAL RADIO' CRITICIZES HABRE

AB150945 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday in Yamoussoukro, today in Lome; at one time in Kinshasa, at another time in Tel Aviv. What is driving Hissein Habre and his assistants? That is the question which most Chadians are asking now. Has there been a palace coup or a mass uprising? In both cases, the country's political and military situation is more than dramatic. Only recently, the international reactionary press described Hissein Habre as the right man in the right place in Chad. In this regard, he was not denied the superfluous.

At present, analyses and comments by the same media are causing concern to the Ndjamena rebel. So Hissein Habre is spending sleepless nights. He desperately clings to power. He has therefore embarked on a vast intoxication campaign throughout Africa, holding up the Libyan danger. In this regard, the Habre government has proclaimed its rights, its duty, and determination to sign international agreements with any state in order to obtain the means to crush any popular uprising.

Suiting the act to the word, Hissein Habre's envoys are touring Africa and the Middle East. In fact, they met Israel's former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon during his visit to Kinshasa. The talks continued in Tel Aviv on 9 and 10 February 1983. According to reliable sources, the arms seized by the Israeli troops from Palestinians in Beirut will be sent through Mobutu to the Ndjamena butcher, Hissein Habre. As one can see, one man's sorrow is another man's joy.

But this is not all. In Ndjamena, while the masses are wallowing in misery and suffering from epidemics and all kinds of diseases, preparations for war are going on unabated. Almost half of the budget is earmarked for war. Worse still, the Hissein Habre clique has established a 12-month compulsory conscription for all Chadians including men and women.

While his envoys were in Tel Aviv, Hissein Habre was in Togo where he met with unconditional allies of imperialism such as Houphouet-Boigny and Gnassingbe Eyadema. The bloodthirsty man in the capital requested the extradition of more than 100 Chadian soldiers and engineers working in the Ivory Coast. These two heads of state are the only ones, along with Mobutu, who want to go to the aid of the Ndjamena dictator, whose days are now numbered. They are also ready to provide him with logistical means to crush the popular uprising now gaining ground in the country.

In the Togolese capital, the Chadian bearded man held negotiations for the integration of Chad into the Entente Council, which only groups west African countries. Meanwhile, some heads of state of that African subregion, who are faithful to the resolutions on Chad of the 18th OAU summit conference held in Nairobi, have condemned that paradoxical move by the (?dictator) in Ndjamena. They therefore support the Transitional National Union Government headed by Goukouni Queddei and they concede to Hissein Habre the right to commit or not to commit Chad. [sentence as heard]

According to observers, Hissein Habre is preparing his exile in the Ivory Coast like Ojukwu and Bokassa before him. After strengthening his relations with the Hebrew state, Hissein Habre is negotiating with South Africa. For this, Ivory Coast's Houphouet-Boigny is a well-placed mediator. He is the one who has always championed dialogue with the apartheid country.

No one is unaware of the danger represented by this (?unholy) cooperation. This is why in JEUNE AFRIQUE's 2 February issue, Beshir Ben Yahmed writes among other things: Arabs and Africans do not know yet that they are on the same side and they do not behave like allies. What is certain is that they will fall victim to the obvious -- though unproclaimed -- alliance between South Africa and Israel. What the latter has been doing to Arabs in the Middle East for the past 30 years will be done to Africans in southern Africa thanks to the alliance between both of them. So Hissein Habre wants to ignore the death of hundreds of black Africans caused by apartheid. This is a demonstration of the Nazi nature of Hissein Habre's personality. The Chadian people will win.

'SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES,' MIGRATION REPORTED

AB171100 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 17 Feb 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, Feb 17 (AFP) -- People in central, eastern and northern Chad, who are facing serious food shortages, have for the last few weeks been moving in large numbers into the towns, or toward Sudan in the east, in search of something to eat, according to reliable sources here. There has not been a proper cereal harvest in these regions since 1979 because of drought and civil war, which have been the cause of several previous major population movements. A report by UN experts speaks of "general improverishment and of "practically nil harvests." [Words indistinct] Lake Chad, are currently reduced to eating wild plants and roots. In December, agricultural experts stressed that these people's indigenuous food supplies would not last more than two weeks.

In the eastern Biltine region, millet production will this year be less than one third of a normal harvest. At Guereda, a town of 10,000 residents, only salt and spices are for sale in the market. In the northern Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti regions, the exodus extends to livestock, for which there is no fodder. The regions' inhabitants, who normally live by livestock raising, are exchanging their animals for millet or wheat.

Most of the water wells in the central, northern and eastern regions are drying up and there is a lack of means to maintain them. Meanwhile, the massive population displacements mean that seeds are not being sown, presaging a continued lack of harvests next year.

Malnutrition and extremely poor sanitary conditions in these regions have led to a resurgence of tuberculosis, meningitis, leprosy and blindness. According to medical doctors attached to humanitarian organizations who have visited the affected regions, the infant mortality rate has risen considerably because of a lack of vaccination programs for the past five years.

The Chadian authorities and international organizations have estimated that the country's population will require 192,000 tons of emergency cereal aid between now and the month of June. But so far, only 5,000 tons of millet and rice purchased from abroad have arrived in Chad. A lack of trucks for transport from Cameroon and a lack of storage facilities at Ndjamena is slowing down efforts to bring in food aid.

Officials of international organizations working in Chad speak of a "race against time" that they say must be engaged to alleviate the situation. This is because in three months' time the rainy season begins, which will make overland routes impractical in the affected areas.

The present organization of the aid effort is not above criticism either. For example southern Chad, a fertile agricultural region, produces more cereal than its population consumes. But instead of being sent to the northern, central or eastern regions, this surplus is bought by Nigerian or Cameroonian traders. In the south a 50-kg (110-pound) sack of millet is sold at an average price of 4,000 francs CFA (about 12 dollars), while a sack of millet of the same size bought outside the country costs 10,000 francs CFA (about 30 dollars) on its arrival in the capital.

The number of people in need and their requirements are also often estimated without much care for accuracy. The Chadian authorities, for example, put at 750,000 the number of Chadians among the foreigners recently expelled from Nigeria, and asked for humanitarian aid of 375,000 50-kg sacks of cereal for them. In fact, only 10,000 Chadians were expelled from Nigeria.

In addition to the immediate spectre of famine is a danger to the country's important cattle herds from cattle plague, or rinderpest. According to UN experts, two million head out of a total cattle population of 3.5 million head are currently threatened by the disease. Cattle exports are an important part of the Chadian economy, and a three-month cattle vaccination program, costing 126 million francs CFA (about 378,000 dollars), is planned. The Chadian authorities have appealed for the donation of two million doses of vaccine but this has not yet arrived in Ndjamena.

The country's cattle have not been vaccinated since 1978, when the herds were reconstituted after being cut by half in earlier droughts, in 1972 and 1974.

ZAIRE

DEFENSE SECRETARY RETURNS FROM VISIT TO ISRAEL

AB180933 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende, secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, returned last night after a 6-day official visit to Israel. At the Njili airport he said: I am satisfied with my visit to Israel; everything went normally despite that friendly country's internal problems.

BENIN

KEREKOU PRESS STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM LAGOS

AB162119 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Statement by Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou in Cotonou on his return from visit to Lagos on 16 February 1983 -- recorded]

[Text] We feel that the delegation of the Beninese state and party did a good job in Lagos. Why? Because the results achieved make us believe that the trip was not useless. In fact, the friendly, working visit which we have just made to Lagos, the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, afforded me the opportunity to confer lengthily with my brother and friend President Shehu Shagari on the issues preoccupying our subregion, west Africa.

In this connection, the Nigerian head of state briefed us objectively on the reasons that led his government to take measures concerning aliens, particularly ECOWAS citizens living illegally in the country. In view of the measures, which seem to be imperative for the Nigerian Government, we reiterated our firm determination to join efforts with our peers in order to both maintain and to strengthen the spirit of understanding, solidarity, and cooperation which can help us all overcome our difficulties and find the best solutions to our problems with the goal of fostering cohesion within our common organization, ECOWAS.

I took the opportunity of this first meeting in 1983 with President Shehu Shagari to exchange views on matters of common interest to our two countries. With regard to Namibia, we hold the view that the international community, particularly the United Nations and its Security Council, must do everything to bring all necessary pressure to bear on the racist South African minority regime so that it will agree to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 435.

Concerning the difficulties confronting the OAU -- we say difficulties and not crisis -- we expressed the great hope that all member states will demonstrate good will and a spirit of unity in order to join efforts and solve the various problems hampering the smooth functioning of our continental organization.

In conclusion, our visit took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood and unity which has always marked the meetings between the heads of our two neighborly countries. We say brotherhood and unity because the Nigerian and Beninese peoples are condemned to live together and peacefully as we have the same border. As I said earlier today before leaving Cotonou, the same people live on both sides of the border. No one ignores the common activities we undertake everyday. Therefore we are obliged to leave no stone unturned to live in peace.

Before I conclude, I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to the brotherly, friendly people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, their government and their head of state, our brother and friend President Shehu Shagari, for the warm reception accorded the delegation of our revolutionary party and state during the visit which was the first one this year.

Finally, I want to add that, in a bid to prove his availability and that of his government, President Shagari informed me that he was providing me -- in my capacity as the current ECOWAS chairman -- with a check for $1 million for all the deportees from Nigeria -- and not only for the Entente Council nationals deported, this must be well understood. He added that he was totally ready to examine with us within ECOWAS all concrete proposals made to him with the goal of helping all the countries which had to bear the burden of the deportees from Nigeria. We took note of the offer.

After carrying out that special mission, which enabled us to examine at length all matters of common interest between our two countries and among ECOWAS members, we can say that we are satisfied to have carried out the mission in accordance with our responsibility. We can therefore say: Long live ECOWAS! Long live inter-African cooperation! Long live African unity! Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

GHANA

RAWLINGS CALLS FOR REVIEW OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM

AB180919 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has called on traditional rulers to undertake a comprehensive review of the land tenure system and bring it in line with the requirements of modern farming. He says the PNDC at present is not calling for nationalization of land but the land tenure system, which might have been beneficial in the past, has features which are now beginning to constitute an obstacle to progress.

Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking at the inauguration of the Ghana Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives at Agona Swedru in the central region. He said there is no excuse for a country like Ghana to have a large class of landless peasants, adding that the time has come for the government to work out an insurance policy for farmers in terms of social security and crop protection. This, he said, would make them more committed. Flight Lt Rawlings said the satisfaction of a man's freedom lies in his ability to provide his own basic needs. Ghanaians must therefore be in a position to produce their needs instead of depending on foreign aid. The chairman hoped that the federation would bring more farmers together under one umbrella so that they could collectively produce more food. On the 50-cedi note, Flight Lt Rawlings said the government will soon make an announcement as regards policy toward the payment of 500 cedis or more.

The secretary for rural development and cooperatives, Kwaku Ankomah, appealed to farmers to expand their farms and produce more to eliminate hunger.

PRC GIVES $50,000 FOR DEPORTEES FROM NIGERIA

AB171348 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] The Chinese Red Cross today presented a check for $50,000 to the government for the relief of Ghanaian deportees from Nigeria. The Chinese ambassador to Ghana, Jia Huaiji, who made the presentation on behalf of the donors, said it shows the concern of the people of China for the deportees and solidarity with the Government of Ghana. He said the money is to help resettle the deportees so that they can contribute to national development.

Receiving the check, the secretary of foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, expressed the gratitude of the government and people of Ghana to the Chinese Red Cross. He informed the ambassador that the return of so many Ghanaians has created a lot of difficulties for the government. However, as a result of good handling, the first hurdle, which is evacuation, has been cleared. The most important thing now is the resettlement of those affected. The money will therefore be very useful in this direction.

Dr Asamoah described the gesture as a reflection of the good relations between Ghana and China and hoped these bonds of friendship will be sustained.

NIGERIA

NAN CITES SHAGARI INTERVIEW ON BBC 14 FEB

AB161207 Lagos NAN in English 1130 GMT 16 Feb 83

[By Wada Maida]

[Text] London, Feb. 16 (NAN) -- President Shehu Shagari said in a television interview in London on Monday that Nigeria did not expel any immigrant but advised all aliens living in the country to regularize their stay or go back home. Speaking on a BBC programme Newsnight, the president said that no deportation order was issued to a single immigrant since the order was given. A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in London quoted President Shagari as saying that those who decided to go back home were not hounded or forced out. He said that it was a normal practice all over the world that illegal immigrants could not take up jobs in a country.

President Shagari said that there was evidence that some of the illegal aliens were involved in crimes and religious violence, adding: No government can fold its arms when these things are happening. He attributed the chaos that accompanied the exercise to the unnecessary alarm raised by some of the countries concerned and the foreign media which capitalised on the issue to give Nigeria a bad name.

President Shagari said that the pope was misled by biased Western press reports. He said that the pope had the facility to find out the truth through the Vatican representatives in Nigeria. The president said that anybody genuinely concerned about the issue should come to Nigeria and find out what the situation was.

COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT OF BENINESE PRESIDENT

AB161945 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Communique issued following Benin President Kerekou's visit to Nigeria on 16 February -- read by External Affairs Minister Ishaya Audu]

[Text] During the visit, the heads of state held discussions of various problems facing the west African region. President Shehu Shagari told President Mathieu Kerekou -- current chairman of ECOWAS -- of the reasons why his government invited aliens illegally residing and working in Nigeria to regularize their positions or leave the country. The august visitor took note of this information. The two heads of state reiterated their complete readiness to do everything to maintain the spirit, understanding, and solidarity which has always guided member countries of the organization.

Reviewing the activities of ECOWAS since the last summit in Cotonou in May 1982, the two heads of state underlined the importance of this instrument of integrated approach-reliance development of the countries of the region and strongly hope that all member states will take steps to consolidate it. To this effect, they recognize that the exchange of information on the situation of each member country would enhance the understanding of problems so that solutions can be found to them in an atmosphere of concord and cohesion within the community. During the meeting, the two presidents equally reviewed matters of bilateral cooperation. The two heads of state expressed their confidence in themselves to take concrete measures in the various fields of common interest in order to achieve better efficiency. Finally, Their Excellencies Alhaji Shehu Shagari and Mathieu Kerekou reviewed African problems, particularly the situation within the OAU, and exchanged ideas on international matters and those matters concerning the Movement of Nonaligned Countries.

At the end of the visit, which took place in an atmosphere of friendliness and brotherliness which has always characterized meetings with President Shehu Shagari, President Mathieu Kerekou expressed his profound gratitude to the brotherly people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to the government, and the Nigerian head of state for the warm, fraternal, and for the typically African welcome given him and his delegation during the visit. His Excellency President Mathieu Kerekou invited His Excellency President Shehu Shagari to visit the People's Republic of Benin. President Shehu Shagari gladly accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed by mutual agreement.

The following participated in the discussions: on the Nigerian side: Dr Ishaya Audu, minister of external affairs; Alhaji Ali Baba, minister of international affairs; Mrs Oyagbola, minister of national planning; Alhaji B.M. Yusuf, minister of commerce; Mallam Garuba Wushishi, minister of information; Dr Ismael Igbani, minister of state for industries; Dr O. (Jolaosho), director general, African affairs, Ministry of External Affairs; Alhaji Yahaya Abdullahi, Nigeria's ambassador to Benin. On the side of the Benin Republic: His Excellency Mr T. Abjibade, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mr O.N. Alladaye, minister of interior and public security; Mr E.B. Ohouens, minister of industries, mines, and energy; His Excellency E.G. Gado, minister of public works, construction, and housing.

HOUSING MEMBER OGUNKOYA SUGGESTS QUITTING OPEC

AB180913 Lagos NAN in English 0750 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb 17 (NAN) -- A member of the House of Representatives, Dr Obatayo Ogunkoya, UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], said today in Lagos that the economy of the country would grind to a halt within four months if the present oil policy was not reviewed.

Dr Ogunkoya, who was speaking during a motion for adjournment, said that no ship had come to the ports to carry crude oil for the past 12 days. He said that Saudi Arabia, which dictated oil prices, had about 136 billion naira in foreign reserve while Nigeria had less than half a billion naira, adding that Nigeria should quit OPEC. "England does not depend on OPEC to sell its North Sea oil, so Nigeria should not depend on OPEC to market its crude oil," he said.

Mr Ogunkoya called on the speaker, Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, to summon President Shagari before the House to defend the country's oil policy.

ANGOLA

JORGE INTERVIEWED ON NAMIBIA, CUBAN TROOPS

PA180055 Mexico City UNO MAS UNO in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p 14

[By correspondent Luis Suarez]

[Text] Luanda, 11 Feb -- Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge has told UNO MAS UNO that the United States' pretension of including the question of Cuban soldiers in Angola as a prior condition for discussing the "indisputable" process of Namibia's independence is a product of Washington's paranoia.

Referring to the recent negotiations between the U.S. and Angolan Governments, which took place despite the fact that both countries have not yet established diplomatic relations, Jorge said that this is part of a double U.S. wish. On one hand, as a member of the so-called contact group (which also includes the GDR, Great Britain, and France), it is interested in establishing contacts with Angola and the countries in the front for Namibia. On the other hand, the United States is also interested in discussing the possibility of establishing relations with Angola.

During a reunion of the Presidium of the International Organization of Journalists, OIP, which started today in Angola, Jorge explained that after President Reagan's election the United States tried to divert the original path of the contact group, which was to comply with UN Resolution 435 on Namibia, which is occupied by South African troops. After abandoning the fiction of a black government in Namibia, the South African Government recently annulled the UN resolution and again designated a governor in that country -- which South Africa still considers its own, and at whose border there exists a real war.

Resolution No 435 of 1978 recognizes the Southwest African People's Organization, SWAPO, as the representative of the Namibian people. The article establishes the principles for the creation of a constituent assembly in an independent Namibia, foresees the participation of UN troops in this organization, and contains several provisions to achieve Namibian independence in 1983, which has not yet happened. The Angolan foreign minister holds the United States and the Pretoria regime responsible for this. Furthermore, he insists that the electoral system to create a constituent assembly has not yet been defined. To make the UN resolution feasible, SWAPO suggests a ceasefire in the attacks against its guerrillas and Angola due to the aerial bombings and land incursions in the southern Angolan provinces of Cunene, Huila, Quando-Cubanza, and Mozamedes, the gradual reduction of Namibian territory that is illegally occupied, and free and just elections.

However, the South African Government has brought up the problem of the withdrawal of Cuban troops that came to help Angola during the critical moments of 1975, when it was being attacked on the dawn of its independence by South African troops in the south and Zairian soldiers in the north. The minister said "this is an attempt to delay the Namibian liberation process, and the pretension has been rejected by the Angolan Government because it represents a rude intervention both in the affairs of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba." In this sense, the minister quotes a joint Angolan-Cuban declaration dated 4 February 1982, in which they affirm that the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops was the sole responsibility of the Republics of Cuba and Angola. Minister Paulo Jorge added, in reply to our question, "Once Namibia is independent and the South African attacks cease, the Cuban and Angolan Governments will reach an agreement for the gradual withdrawal of those troops."

Last November Angolan and South African representatives met on the island of Sal (which belongs to Cape Verde) to discuss bilateral affairs related to Namibia. This gave rise to interpretations that Angola is adopting a policy of concessions. Paulo Jorge rebutted this when he stated:

"Angola's borders with Namibia are illegally occupied by South Africa. Whether we like it or not, the Pretoria regime is a concerned party and Namibia is under a UN mandate (which Pretoria violates). All countries in the United Nations are concerned with the Namibian issue, not only Angola, although some choose to remain out of it. The Angolan Government totally supports SWAPO, even logistically, because we consider legitimately assisting any peoples struggling on the armed and diplomatic path. We are at an impasse. Pretoria wanted to make contact with Angolan institutions and we arranged it, but we maintain the same firm line of support for the Namibian people. Now we know the Pretoria regime's intentions. We want relations with all countries of the world, whether or not they are progressive."

Regarding the upcoming New Delhi nonaligned summit, the Angolan minister noted that only the current Kampuchean Government can occupy its place: but since this is complicated by the position of other countries, Angola will come out in favor of the post remaining vacant, because it is inconceivable that it be filled by a representative of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, which has Western support.

Paulo Jorge said that Angola views itself as being at war, declared or not, with South Africa, and that this seriously affects the country: Production has dropped, as has its principal exports of oil, diamonds, and coffee. Angola's foreign debt today totals $1 billion and the losses caused by bombings, ground attacks, looting, and sabotage in the south total $7.5 billion, in addition to tens of thousands killed and handicapped persons who must be maintained. All of this is part of the plan to destabilize Angola.

Meanwhile, Pretoria radio reports that a ceasefire agreement has been reached with Angola. In any event, this country undoubtedly wants and needs peace.

NAMIBIA

17 SWAPO GUERRILLAS KILLED IN SKIRMISH

MB171706 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1600 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Seventeen SWAPO guerrillas were killed in a single skirmish in western Ovambo Tuesday. That is according to a South-West Africa Territory Force statement released in Windhoek. The statement says there are clear indications that SWAPO is stepping up its campaign in Namibia. Among other signs, it says, are that 200 newly trained guerrillas have joined SWAPO's military wing.

AFP INTERVIEWS NATIONAL PARTY LEADER PRETORIUS

AB171345 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 17 Feb 83

[By Christine von Garnier]

[Excerpt] Windhoek, Feb 17 (AFP) -- The head of the white minority "ethnic" government in Namibia, Kosie Pretorius, has said that he favors the territory's partition as a means of overcoming the present deadlock in moves toward an independence settlement. Mr Pretorius, who is also leader of the Namibian National Party, which is seen as close to the right wing of the ruling National Party in South Africa, told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE in an interview here that "we see no other solution" than partition.

Under this scheme, Ovamboland or northern Namibia would become an independent -- "or semi-independent" -- state where "blacks could settle with a government of their choice", he said. "The rest would be a multi-racial state." The multi-racial state -- "where we would be prepared to share power" -- could take the form of a federation, and this federation could then form a confederation with the other portion of Namibia, Mr Pretorius said. The partition proposition was first suggested several years ago.

The Namibian National Party leader said he believed that if elections were now held for whites alone in Namibia, the large majority would vote for the National Party, which currently has 11 seats out of 18 in the white "ethnic" assembly.

Other ethnic groups in South African-administrated Namibia also have their own assemblies. The population of Namibia is a little over one million, of which 75,600 are white, according to the latest statistics of last year. The largest black ethnic group are the Ovambos, who according to the figures number 516,000.

Mr Pretorius said that the Namibian National Party was no longer prepared to discuss Namibian independence under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 435 because, he said, this had undergone "too many modifications." Resolution 435 calls for a ceasefire in the guerrilla war in the territory and internationally-supervised elections, but Mr Pretorius said that the National Party remained convinced that the rights of Namibia's minority ethnic groups would never be safe under internationally-supervised elections. He said that the question of Cuban troops in Angola, which Washington and Pretoria have sought to link with a Namibian settlement, was important, but was "not our problem." "As far as we are concerned, we accept the principle that it is up to South Africa to decide which path it is to follow," he said. Mr Pretorius said the "peoples' rights must take precedence over human rights."

Mr Pretorius said that we recognized differences between men, but also their inter-dependence. He said he was against all discimination against blacks and Colored (mixed race) people, but said that whites had a right to separate schools, churches and hospitals reserved for them only, if they wanted them. "The survival of an ethnic group must take precedence over that of individuals," he said, quoting the Old Testament of the Bible in his support. "It is in that spirit that we favor partition."

MUDGE: RSA COMMITTED TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE

MB171400 Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 12 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Bloemfontein -- It is wrong to say that South Africa will be able to rule South-West Africa in the event that the conditions for an election under international supervision are not met, says Mr Dirk Mudge, chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA]. He says South Africa is committed to independence for South-West Africa through an election based on "one man, one vote," and to maintaining the territory's integrity and removing all discriminatory measures. This undertaking was given not only to the rest of the world but also to the people of South-West Africa, Mr Mudge said at a press conference here yesterday.

An election under international supervision will provide international recognition, but even without such an election South Africa has often allied itself to the principle that the people of South-West Africa can decide on their own future. Mr Mudge says he feels South-West Africa is being besmirched, and the territory is becoming a football in international politics. He believes South Africa's credibility can suffer in the eyes of the international community.

South Africa accepted the principle of "one man, one vote" in elections but held an internal election in 1978 to choose leaders. He wanted to know why the internal leaders have been ignored except on one occasion when they were pressed into accepting UN Resolution 435.

He said it would appear the many political parties in South-West Africa have arisen because the Government of South Africa does not negotiate with the elected leaders. The DTA is still the strongest anti-SWAPO front and the only political party which has succeeded in reconciling black and white politicians. He said the DTA played a major role in the drubbing suffered by SWAPO. Apart from the breakaway by Mr Peter Kalangula the alliance has not lost any support, while its support among whites has grown.

Mr Mudge said the present problems have arisen because a party which represents 3.5 percent of the population has begun to put pressure on the South African Government.

SWAPO COMMUNIQUE REVIEWS 1982 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MB161354 Gaborone BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS in English 3 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] A total of 2,865 South African soldiers occupying Namibia were put out of actions, either killed or wounded by the South West Africa People Organization (SWAPO) freedom fighters. This is revealed in a communique on the 1982 military operations of the SWAPO military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN).

The communique states that despite spotty coverage which the armed struggle in Namibia receives in the world press, "the armed conflict in our country has continued to deepen in its intensity and broaden in its scope."

"Some 79 enemy trucks have been destroyed; and 37 armoured personnel carriers were also destroyed," says the communique. It further discloses that eighteen enemy aircrafts were shot down, 14 helicopters and two reconnaissance planes were also shot down. Furthermore, 230 enemy agents were captured.

According to the communique the zone of combat in which these armed actions took place cover nearly half of the country, ranging from the banks of Okavango River in the north-east to the "skeleton coast" on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, and from the Namibian-Angolan frontier in the north to the districts of Otjiwarongo and Omaruru in the north central part of Namibia. The expansion of the operational area by PLAN during the first quarter of the year 1982 has obliged the South African Army of colonial occupation to stretch its defence lines by deploying more and more active combat forces in the field around the areas of Tsumeb, Okavango, Otavi, Outjo, Otjiwarongo and Omaruru.

In the period between November 1981 and November 1982, according to the communique, PLAN combatants initiated 802 armed actions against the forces of illegal occupation in Namibia. These actions, says the communique, ranged from attacks on enemy military positions, demolitions of enemy military economic and communication installations, landmines against enemy vehicles and armoured cars, ambushes against enemy troops and raids on enemy military targets.

"The above figures of military actions and enemy losses in men and material indicate quite clearly that the price of colonial occupation is becoming increasingly higher for the racist state in South Africa than ever before," says the communique. It adds: "They reveal also that the strategy of grandiose military invasion and occupation of parts of the Angolan territory to ostensibly destroy SWAPO's military backbone has failed to yield the desired results."

The National Executive Committee of the Central Committee of SWAPO also said that as a result of PLAN's military actions in what has been regarded as the traditional white settler farming areas, many colonial settlers found it necessary to flee the countryside and move to the relative safety of the towns. Many other white settlers decided to leave the country altogether and migrate to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Latin America.

The SWAPO communique discloses that between 30,000 and 40,000 white colonial settlers have already left Namibia thereby eroding the social basis of South Africa's colonial occupation of the country.

SWAPO heavily criticises the linkage of the question of the Namibian independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola, and what it termed the open encouragement of South Africa by the United States.

The movement's National Executive Committee pledged that SWAPO will intensify the political, military and diplomatic struggle in the course of the year 1983 with a view to making the new year the most decisive year "of our people's long and bitter struggle for national liberation."

ZAMBIA

MP CITES GOVERNMENT 'INTIMIDATION' OF PRESS

MB180852 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Member of Parliament for Choma (Daniel Munkombwe) has said the freedom of the press in the country is being eroded because of intimidation. Mr Munkombwe) told Parliament that he was deeply worried by the official censorship of the press which, he added, was confirmed last Monday when MP's including the speaker, Mr (Robinson Nakuliyato), toured the mass media complex in Lusaka. Mr (Munkombwe) said journalists were scared in their duties and had turned to speculation due to government intimidation. He said that the government is directing the press on what to report and what not to publish, asking the speaker whether the state was an (?adequate censor of the press).

In his ruling, the speaker said he sympathized with Mr (Munkombwe's) point of order, but explained that any proprietor of the press had the right to control it.

ZIMBABWE

'ALLEGED' GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE REPORTED

AB171747 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 17 Feb 83

[By Jean-Michel Stoullig]

[Text] Harare, Feb 17 (AFP) -- More reports are coming in on acts of violence allegedly committed in western Zimbabwe (Matabeleland) by government forces fighting against dissident former members of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's now-disbanded guerrilla army. Eye witness accounts largely come from the hundreds of peasants who have sought refuge in Bulawayo, the main city of Matabeleland. They say they have fled the government army which according to them, has killed dozens of villagers.

The government has denied these accusations, first made at the end of January by Mr Nkomo who said that the Army and special police support units had killed more than 100 "innocent civilians".

The dissidents are blamed for killing dozens of people since Mr Nkomo was dismissed from the cabinet about a year ago. Their attacks seem to have temporarily halted after a wave of violence at the new year holiday which took 14 lives.

In addition an exodus of thousands of refugees from Matabeleland south to Botswana and South Afirca has been reported by South Africa's Johannesburg STAR. But the story has not been confirmed in South Africa or Botswana.

A representative of the United Nations World Food Programme in Gaborone told AFP that the group had not received (?any) emergency food aid, which would be the case if thousands of new refugees had recently arrived.

South African authorities have confirmed that they arrested 18 refugees from Zimbabwe who had secretly crossed from Botswana to South Africa. But a Western diplomat in Gaborone estimated that the number of 5,000 refugees reported by THE STAR was "most certainly exaggerated." Botswana and Zimbabwe, however, have officially admitted the presence of hundreds of former ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] men in the Dukwe refugee camp in northern Botswana. The arrival of these refugees began after the sacking of Mr Nkomo from cabinet.

The Zimbabwean newspaper, THE BULAWAYO CHRONICLE, reported today that former Army Lieutenant John Sibanda, one of the leaders of the dissidents' "high command," and who led the attack on Mr Mugabe's home last July, is now at the Dukwe camp.

Mr Nkomo's allegations against government forces singled out the Fifth Brigade, the unit composed almost entirely of Shonas (Zimbabwe's ethnic majority). He accused the brigade of waging "tribal war" against the Ndebeles, the ethnic minority who live in Matabeleland. But the minister of state for defence, Sydney Sekeramanyi, denied on Wednesday in Parliament that hundreds of civilians have been killed by the Army. He said the only victims have been "people who have collaborated with the dissidents," but he added that "in a conflict situation ...probably some innocents fall victim, too."

Journalists are not officially allowed in the large curfew area of rural southwestern Zimbabwe where the Army's activities are concentrated. But several journalists, including a correspondent for AFP, recently visited the Mbambezi area, north of Bulawayo. Most of the villagers there had fled the area and those that remained pointed out the fresh graves of those killed, they said, by the Fifth Brigade.

In Bulawayo, hundreds of refugees have arrived at a Methodist church. They say they have fled the Army's rough treatment. Minister of Social Services Kumbirai Kangai said on Wednesday in Parliament that there are only 100 people at the church and that they have fled the dissidents."

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace which defended human rights under the minority white regime of Rhodesia in the 1960's, has now made a report to Prime Minister Mugabe expressing the group's concern over incidents involving the security forces in western Zimbabwe.

The authorities in the troubled area complain regularly of the lack of cooperation from civilians and blame them for aiding the dissidents. A diplomatic source in Harare said that the government has chosen the "military solution" because it is impossible to distinguish between the armed dissidents and civilians of the area.